



KNOX-METROPOLITAN
UNITED CHURCH

2017 ANNUAL REPORT



Contents

Knox-Metropolitan United Church Leadership	3
Staff	3
Mission Statement.....	3
Proposed Agenda for Annual Congregational Meeting.....	4
In Memoriam 2017	5
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Knox-Met United Church	6
Minister’s Message.....	10
Open Table Dinner Church	11
The Labyrinth at Knox-Met.....	11
Unsettling Ideas.....	12
The Kairos Blanket Exercise – An Intergenerational Learning Experience	13
Spirituality and Parenting Discussion Groups.....	14
A Quest for Respect – Learning to Respect Indigenous Spirituallties	15
Follow Yonder Star	15
Report from the Knox-Met Board	16
2018 Narrative Budget	19
Itemized Budget (proposed).....	20
Ministry Council.....	22
Administration.....	22
Use of Church	23
Stewardship.....	23
Christian Education.....	24
Congregational Life.....	25
Pastoral Care.....	26
Food and Fun Club.....	27
Outreach and Social Action	28
Word, Worship, Music and Arts	29
Committees	31
Ministry and Personnel.....	31
Refugee Committee.....	31
Other Groups	32
Clare Parker Homes	33
Affirming Ministries Group.....	35
The Regina Bell Ringers	36
Book and Music Sale.....	37

Knox-Metropolitan United Church Leadership

Staff

Cameron Fraser – Minister

Hart Godden – Music Director

Janice Diemert – Administrator

Justin Prettyshield, Aaron Balkaran & Micheal Sandapen (until April 2017) - Custodians

Tanya Bergen – Communications (until September 2017)

Board of Directors

Carole Bryant (Past Chair)

Carol Schick (Chair)

John Keeler (Treasurer)

Barbara Shourounis (Secretary)

Susan McLaren

Paul Clarke

Gary Seib (Presbytery Rep)

Bob Ivanochko

Alison Stickland (Trustee Rep)

Laurie Ulmer (Presbytery Rep)

Victor Lam

Mission Statement

Accepting the challenge of Christ's call to be His disciples we worship together, care for each other, welcome strangers and strive to be His living presences in our community.

Vision of Ministry

- 1) To explore and respond to the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Final Report
- 2) To engage young families, children and youth more fully in the life of the church
- 3) To continue to develop a congregational culture of welcome, hospitality, and support

Open Questions

- 1) What building design will support our future ministry?
- 2) How will we minister to those outside our walls in the downtown?
- 3) How shall we best engage with our financial resources to achieve the goals set out in the Future Plan?

Proposed Agenda for Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, April 15, 2018

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Opening Prayer
- 3) In Memoriam and Minute of Silence
- 4) Election of chair/secretary of the Annual Congregational Meeting
- 5) Approval of Agenda
- 6) Minutes of Annual Congregational Meeting of March 26, 2017
- 7) Reports (Note: These reports will not be read as part of the meeting.)
 - a) Minister
 - b) Chair of the Board
 - c) Finances
 - i) Financial Statements
 - ii) Proposed 2018 Budget
 - iii) Appointment of Auditor
 - d) Board of Trustees
 - e) Ministry Council
 - i) Administration
 - Use of the Church
 - Stewardship
 - ii) Christian Education
 - iii) Congregation Life
 - Pastoral Care
 - Food and Fun Club
 - Forever In Motion
 - iv) Outreach and Social Action
 - v) Word, Worship, Music and the Arts
 - f) Committees
 - i) Ministry and Personnel
 - ii) Refugee Committee
 - g) Other Groups
 - i) Wascana Presbytery
 - ii) Regina Anti-Poverty Ministry
 - iii) Clare Parker Homes
 - iv) Affirming Ministry
 - v) The Regina Bell Ringers
 - vi) Book Sale/Flea Market/Arts Sale
 - vii) St. Andrew's Seniors/Lunch Group
- 8) Elections
 - a) Report of the Nominating Committee
 - b) Election of Officers, Board
 - c) Presbytery Representatives
- 9) Other Business
 - a) Amendment to the Governance Document
 - b) Update from EDGE Network, Being There When the Future Comes and Building Design process
- 10) Adjournment

In Memoriam 2017

Eric Bradford Boese
Natasha Liala Achter
Robert Irvine McLaren
Margaret Kinross Metzler
Shirley Orlene Corman
Violet Louise Wooff
Vernon Melvin Griswold
Melvin Elroy Ulmer
Michael Lesanko

Marriages

Stephen James Thomson & Jessica Rae Hanna
James Githegi Njeri & Erin Danielle Payette
Elliott Dylan Michael DeBolt & Jamie Danielle Kilkenny
Michael Allan Braun & Sonja Kathrin Keller
James Anthony Smetaniuk & Janelle Nagrampa
Kyle Benjamin Hornung & Charlotte Marie Briere
Timothy Aaron Knoblauch & Kayla Jean Didowycz
Landon Lionel Raymond Perra & Jocelyn Leigh Cerón



Baptisms

Daniel Jecha
Dean Aaron Brandhagen
Randi Mae Brandhagen
Aiden Adair
Benjamin David Hall-Cunningham
Molly Grace Hall-Cunningham
Monique Poisson-Fast
Sloan Mae Kelly Sarai
Lane William Frank Lewgood
Charlee Emma Manz
Brynley Ireland Thompson

New Members

Arleen S. Rante
Armando Rante
Paul Clarke
Aiden Adair
Elona Noelle Laforge
Andrew Adair
Carter Jones
Zalin Cooper
Monique Poisson-Fast
Nino Ricci
Shirley Arnold
Debbie Mayer
Marlene Wirachowsky
Sheleen Ross

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Knox-Met United Church

Sunday, March 26, 2017

1. Call to order - Carole Bryant called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon and welcomed everyone.

2. Declaration of quorum

Carole Bryant explained that the Church's Governance Document states that 20 full members constitutes a quorum for congregational meetings. 71 for members being present, she declared that there is a quorum for the meeting.

3. Election of chair and secretary - Moved/seconded by Stewart Graham/Joyce Wells that Carole Bryant be elected as chair and that Barbara Shourounis be elected a secretary for meetings of the congregation. Carried.

4. Opening prayer - Cameron Fraser said an opening prayer.

5. In memoriam - We paused for a minute of silence remembering those who passed away in 2016.

6. Approval of agenda

The following items were added to the agenda:

- a. Election of Board members
- b. Election of John Keeler to the Board of Trustees
- c. Becoming an affirming ministry
- d. Remits from the United Church of Canada

Moved/seconded by Wayne Tunison/Bonita Dolmage that the agenda be adopted as amended. Carried.

7. Presentation by Next Up

Emma Schultz and Jordan Todd made a presentation on behalf of Next Up, a leadership development program for youth. They thanked the Church for the use of its space and Cameron Fraser for his help on the organizing committee.

8. Minutes of the meeting of April 3, 2016 - Moved/seconded by Elizabeth Calam/Bob Ivanochko that the minutes of the annual general meeting held April 3, 2016 be adopted. Carried.

9. Reports

a. Minister's report - Cameron Fraser thanked the congregation for their support over the past year as he's taken on a new role upon the retirement of Bob Kitchen. He is grateful for the opportunity to serve. Moved/seconded by Alison Stickland/Victor Lam that the minister's report be adopted. Carried.

b. Report from chair of the Board - Carole Bryant spoke about the important events that have happened in the past year including Bob Kitchen's retirement, deciding whether to have an interim minister or not, and

Cam Fraser carrying on a solo minister. She thanked Cam for his interesting and engaging leadership.

She thanked the congregation for its support in her role as chair of the board.

Moved/seconded by Carole Bryant/Carol Schick that the chair's report to be accepted. Carried.

c. Financial matters

i. Financial statements

John Keeler presented the financial statements for the financial year ending December 31, 2016 which include money held by the Board of Trustees. The financial statements have been prepared by MWC Chartered Professional Accountants who have provided a clean review engagement report.

Moved/seconded by John Keeler/Keith Rever that the congregation accept the financial statements. Carried.

ii. Treasurer's report

John Keeler presented his report as treasurer. Moved/seconded by John Keeler/Joan Garden that the treasurer's report be accepted. Carried.

iii. Appointment of auditor

Move/seconded by John Keeler/Stewart Graham that the firm of MWC Chartered Professional Accountants LLP be appointed to prepare a review engagement report of Knox-Metropolitan United Church's financial statements for fiscal 2017, subject to confirmation of the costs and that the work be completed before the next annual general meeting. Carried.

iv. Appointment of signing officers - Moved/seconded by John Keeler/Alison Stickland that the signing officers for the next year be the following:

Chair of the Board

Vice-chair of the Board

Past chair of the Board

Treasurer

Chair of the Administration Ministry

Stuart Mann

Joan Garden

Bill Perkins

The motion was carried.

v. Budget for 2017

John Keeler presented a budget for 2017. Moved/seconded by John Keeler/Keith Rever that the budget for 2017 be adopted. Carried.

d. Board of Trustees - Carole Bryant thanked Alison Stickland for her many years of work as the chair of the Board of Trustees. Moved/seconded by Alison Stickland/John Keeler that the Board of Trustees' report be accepted. Carried.

e. Ministry Reports

- i. **Administration** - Moved/seconded by Keith Rever/Stewart Graham that the report of the Administration Ministry be accepted. Carried.
- ii. **Christian Education** - Moved/seconded by Marlene Hall/Jean Parker that the report of the Christian Education Ministry be accepted. Carried.
- iii. **Congregational Life** - Move/seconded by Elizabeth Calam/Marianne Rever that the report of the Congregational Life Ministry be accepted. Carried.
- iv. **Communication** - No report
- v. **Outreach and Social Action** - Bob Ivanochko presented the report from the Outreach and Social Action Ministry along with a report regarding refugee sponsorship. He thanked the members of the congregation for all of their support in the settlement of the Legesse family.
Moved/seconded by Bob Ivanochko/Greg Horsman that both reports be accepted. Carried.
- vi. **Word, Worship, Music and the Arts** - Moved/seconded by Elizabeth Calam/Donna Jones that the report of the Word, Worship, Music and the Arts Ministry be accepted. Carried.

f. Other reports

- i. **Ministry and Personnel Committee** - Moved/seconded by Susan McLaren/David Calam that the report of the Ministry and Personnel Committee be accepted. Carried.
- ii. **Use of Church** - Moved/seconded by Stewart Graham/Evelyn Gay that the report of the Use of Church Committee be accepted. Carried.
- iii. **Pastoral Care** - Moved/seconded by Elizabeth Calam/Bob Ivanochko that the report of the Pastoral Care Committee be accepted. Carried.
- iv. **Food and Fun** - Moved/seconded by David Calam/Marianne Rever that the report of the Food and Fun Group be accepted. Carried.
- v. **Wascana Presbytery** - Moved/seconded by Gary Seib/Cathy Currey that the report from Wascana Presbytery be accepted. Carried.
- vi. **Regina Bell Ringers** - Moved/seconded by Bonita Dolmage/Garth Solar that the report from Regina Bell Ringers be accepted. Carried.
- vii. **Clare Parker Homes** - Cathy Currey presented a verbal report on the work of Claire Parker Homes. Moved/Seconded by Cathy Currey/Elizabeth Calam that her report be accepted. Carried.

10. Elections

i. Election to the Board of the Church

Gary Seib presented a report from the Nominations Committee. He reviewed the individuals elected to the Board in 2016 for one, two and three year terms under the new Governance Document.

Colette Forbes' one year term has expired, and Gary thanked her for her service on the Board. He also thanked Kate Johnson for her long service on the Board as she leaves the Board as past chair.

Moved/seconded by Gary Seib/Elizabeth Calam that:

- Carol Schick be nominated as chair of the Board of Knox-Metropolitan United Church, and
- Paul Clarke be elected as a member of the Board for three year term.

Carole Bryant called three times for further nominations and there were none. She therefore declared Carol Schick and Paul Clarke to be elected by acclamation.

ii. Election to the Board of Trustees - Moved/seconded by Alison Stickland/Marianne Rever that John Keeler be elected to the Board of Trustees. Carried.

11. Other business

a. Affirming Ministry - Cameron Fraser presented a video explaining affirming ministries and the process for a congregation to become an affirming ministry. He proposed that the congregation begin the process of discerning whether to seek a designation as an affirming ministry.

Moved/seconded by Colette Forbes/David Calam that the Church begin the process of exploring whether to become an affirming ministry. The motion was carried with one abstention.

b. Remits - Cameron Fraser outlined the five remits approved at the 42nd general counsel of the United Church of Canada. All of them require approval of pastoral charges as expressed by a vote of the Board.

Remits one, two, three and four must all be voted on before June 30, 2017. Cam outlined a series of workshops for the congregation to explore the issues set out in the remits.

12. Adjournment - Moved by Donna Jones that the annual general meeting be adjourned. The meeting then adjourned at 1:20 PM.

Minister's Message

Called to be the Church & Being There When the Future Comes

On Sunday, November 26, 2017 (which incidentally was the final Sunday of the Liturgical Year – because Advent is the beginning of our worship cycle), we gathered in the Lower Hall after worship for a presentation Being There When the Future Comes which has become a catch phrase to describe some important visioning work we have been working on in the first quarter of 2018.

This event, which included an important message from Board Chair Carol Schick about our current a projected financial and demographic situation, and then a presentation from the Executive Director of the EDGE Network for Ministry Development of The United Church of Canada, Rob Dalgliesh who shared examples of creative things that churches like ours have done to respond to their internal circumstances and a world with a changing relationship to church and Christianity. There was great energy in the room, lots of hope and a belief that with planning and experimentation (and perhaps some risk-taking) we might indeed be there when the future comes.

This moment was a fitting capstone to the 2017 year of Ministry in which we have explored what it means for us as a church community and institution here at the corner of Lorne and Victoria to be downtown on purpose and explore our Call to be Church.

This was the first full year of my ministry with you after Bob's retirement in Summer of 2016, and it has been an exciting time with many highlights such as hosting Ian Wilgus who is considering Ministry in the United Church as a Vocation through the Explorers Program. Working with the Saskatchewan Writers Guild we partnered to create Unsettling Ideas: A TRC Book Club that saw over 400 participants throughout 10 monthly meetings exploring the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada through literature. Working with Lumsden Beach Camp we held 4 Day Camp Programs, and the creation of Spirituality and Parenting Discussion Groups. Attendance on Sunday Mornings has been on the rise, and givings saw a modest increase over the previous year.

Behind the scenes, a Joint Needs Assessment Committee has been working to consider the future of Ministry, the Building Design Group has been working with architects to think about the future of our building, the Affirming Ministries Group has been thinking about the needs of those historically excluded from Christian Community, and the Board has been pursuing plans for a sustainable future working with the EDGE. Add to that the many Committees, Ministries, Groups, and Volunteers whose tireless works keeps things moving around here.

It is truly a Divine Dance of Creativity and Energy – out of which we live into our present and begin to imagine our future – my deepest thanks for your joining the rhythm.

May the Dance go on!



Open Table Dinner Church

When you have more than you need, build a bigger table, not a higher fence - Anonymous



2017 was the 3rd year of Open Table Dinner Church, an alternative service started as part of our strategy to implement recommendations from the Future Planning Final Report to provide more options for worshippers. This year we held monthly services January-June before taking a break for re-visioning.

Worshippers gather in the mid-afternoon to prepare a meal and set up the worship area with tables, utensils, candles and soft-lighting to create a relaxed, intimate, sacred space. Attendance ranged from 12 (during a snow storm) to the low 30s and was always well received by all who

attended.

Paperless, acapella songs are lead by Cheryl Hymus, the Gospel passage for the week is read and then Cam offers short reflections that become discussion starters for the whole gathered community to discuss. Prayers are shared through candle-lighting, spoken concerns and community response.

Starting in 2018, the Open Table will gather 4 times a year alternating with a new initiative Waffle Church. If Open Church is geared towards adults but open to children, Waffle Church is aimed at children and adults are allowed to join in, and be welcomed into the space.

The Labyrinth at Knox-Met

There's nothing so wise as a circle - Rainer Maria Rilke

Knox-Metropolitan United Church has owned a '36 diameter Medieval (aka Chartes Style) Canvas Labyrinth since 2015. We have offered self-guided monthly walks for personal reflection and prayer as well as periodic introductory workshops facilitated by Cam Fraser who is a Trained Labyrinth Facilitator, having studying under the Rev. Dr. Lauren Artess of Grace Cathedral, San Fransisco, founder of Veriditas (a worldwide network for the promotion and use of Labyrinths).

In 2017, we offered monthly walks throughout the Winter and Spring one Thursday/Friday a month from 12-9pm, and then had the Labyrinth available all Summer during office hours and lunchtime. Starting fall 2017 it was once again open one Friday a month from 12-9pm. This pattern sees a modest but grateful group of visitors popping in to make use of this sacred space, usually around 5 people per open walk and 15-20 per facilitated walk. Kneeling cushions, battery operated candles, and ambient instrumental music create an atmosphere of contemplation, peace and prayer.

In the past we have offered group workshops for the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region Palliative Care Volunteers, and special facilitated walks for those feeling grief and loss. In 2017, Cam offered introductory Labyrinth workshops for all grade levels of Prairie Sky School looking at Labyrinths as an embodied spiritual practice.

Goals for 2018 include increasing the regular usage of the Labyrinth, inviting more private groups (such as workplaces) to use the Labyrinth and engage with workshops, and to get some media attention and increased publicity.

Unsettling Ideas

A TRC Book Club in Partnership with the Saskatchewan Writers Guild

Before we can achieve reconciliation, we must be able to imagine it

From September 2016 to June 2017, Knox-Metropolitan United Church was the major partner along with the Saskatchewan Writers Guild. Each month 1 book was chosen based on 1 Call to Action of the TRC Final Report. Each month an event was held, when possible, bringing the author of the book to the City for a public event, and when not possible, having a local Indigenous voice instigating conversation.

These events were held in a number of places, included here at the Church, branches of the Public Library, at First Nations University of Canada, local cafés and other public meeting areas.

Books explored were:

The Education of Augie Merasty by Augie Merasty

Indigenous Men and Masculinities edited by Robert Innes and Kim Anderson

The Break by Katherena Vermette

In Search of April Raintree by Beatrice Mosionier

The Lesser Blessed by Richard VanCamp

My First Métis Lobstick (and other Children's Books) by Leah Marie Dorian

Honouring the Buffalo told by Ray Lavallee by Judith Silverthorne

nakamowin'sa: For the Seasons by Rita Bouvier

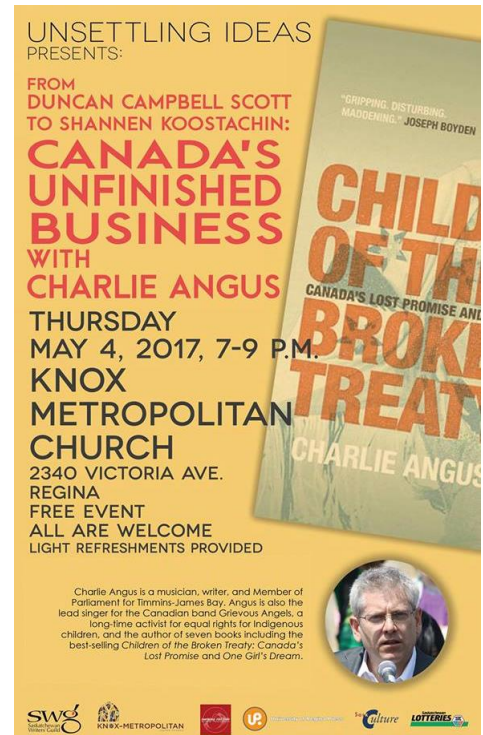
Witness, I am by Gregory A Scofield

Children of the Broken Treaty by Charlie Angus

Nationhood Interrupted by Sylvia McAdam Saysewahum

The Winter We Danced: Voices From the Past, the Future, and the Idle

No More Movement by The Kino-nda-niimi Collective



Turning the Tide bookstore would bring in copies of the book for purchased and Knox-Met curated a community lending library to ensure that no one would be barred from participation due to lack of financial capacity.

Attendance ranged between 30 (during a brutally cold snap) and 200. Events were advertised and broadcast through a Facebook Group with over 400 members, with sometimes more than 1000 watching the event on the day of and as a recording.

This endeavor was both an embodiment of our vision of ministry to explore and respond to the Calls to Action of the Truth and Commission Final Report as well as an experiment in working across a number of sectors with partners. In addition to the SWG and Turning the Tide, we were also working with the University of Regina Office of Indigenousization, the Regina Public Library and Sakawewak Artists Collective.

This event was highly successful and a retired University Professor and local activist commented that it was “one of the best things happening in Regina this year”.

The Kairos Blanket Exercise – An Intergenerational Learning Experience

Members of the Confirmation Class joined with folks from the Congregation to engage in an immersive experience learning experience, exploring the history of Indigenous and Non-Indigenous peoples collective history upon Turtle Island (North America and Canada).

We were joined by Sarah Longman, Supervisor of Aboriginal Education & Student Achievement for Regina Public Schools, and Elder Arthur who offered prayers and guidance to the group.

The event took place in the midst of a blizzard, but still we had 5 members of the confirmation group, their parents and several people from the congregation (22 in total) attend and participate. The Ministry of Outreach and Social Action provided a lunch of Soup and Bannock to lead up to the event which was held after Sunday Worship in early February.

Miriam Sainnawap is part of the Menonite Central Committee of Canada, and part of the Kairos Ecumenical Justice Organization working on the Blanket Exercise. She describes its value:

Canadians resist confronting Canada's racist history and policies. That past still lives in the present day. In my opinion, the blanket exercise is not able to challenge the Doctrine of Discovery in practicality. It allows one to remain a passive learner, not an active doer dismantling the oppressive systems and confronting the racist attitudes held deeply in the national psyche.

All who attended this event from Knox-Met agreed that it was a challenging but beneficial learning. We hope to offer another opportunity to engage in this exercise (hopefully on a day in which weather is not a detriment to participation).



Spirituality and Parenting Discussion Groups

Throughout 2017, we found a growing interest in Knox-Met United Church and our ministry among young families with children 10 years old or younger. Some were attending Sunday morning services on a semi-regular basis, others just occasionally, and still others were engaging in non-Sunday events. Out of conversations with these families and their interests and needs, we held an event *The Spirituality of Parenting* which was an open discussion based on a podcast by the same name from *On Being with Krista Tippett* featuring the Rabbi Sandy Eisenberg Sasso.

In early November we had 14 participants join a circle of discussion over coffee, tea and refreshments that meandered through a number of topics inspired by the podcast, touching on such questions as...

- How do you pray with children?
- How do you nurture a child's compassion and curiosity?
- What do you pass on to your children if you personally no longer resonate with a religious heritage from your family?
- How do you speak about death with children?

Cam was featured on CBC's the Morning Edition the day before the event which brought out a few participants who had been intrigued by the conversation.

Babysitting was provided by members of the Lumsden Beach Camp staff (with special mention to Assistant Child-minder Lucie Poisson-Fast) to allow parents to more fully engage in the discussion. We were thrilled with the participation especially since it happened to be snowing heavily on the day of the event.

The event was so successful that we decided to hold a December edition looking at Spirituality, Parenting and Christmas Time. Cam was once again featured on CBC Radio in the lead up, this time as a panelist on CBC Blue Sky noon hour call in show.

Attendance was similar to the first event with some new faces who had not participated in the first conversation. We were excited to engage with some members of the church as well as folks who are considering church involvement and even some who would not consider themselves drawn to the Christian tradition.

These events have spawned a continuing series of conversations that will be happening throughout the winter and spring of 2018 and hopefully continue into the fall.



A Quest for Respect – Learning to Respect Indigenous Spiritualities



Long before my people journeyed to this land your people were here, and you received from your Elders an understanding of creation and of the Mystery that surrounds us all that was deep, and rich, and to be treasured. We did not hear you when you shared your vision.

-The Right Rev. Bob Smith (Moderator of The United Church of Canada, 1986)

When we saw the forecast calling for harsh winds and plummeting temperatures on the first evening of A Quest for Respect we worried whether we would be just a few people gathered together in the Centennial Lounge (where we had set up 25 seats). 10 minutes before the event began we had to move into the Sanctuary to accommodate everyone who came in—66 people on the first evening and between 55-58 for the subsequent 3 weeks.

A Quest for Respect: Learning to Respect Indigenous Spiritualities was a 4 week learning opportunity based on the Call to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: We call upon leaders of the church...to develop and teach Curriculum...on the need to respect Indigenous spirituality in its own right (#60).

This series was grounded in a resource by the same name and was hosted by Lorna Standingready, former leading Elder of The United Church of Canada's All Native Circle Conference, who gratefully accepted our offering of tobacco and request to be our guide.

About 20% of participants had an existing connection to Knox-Met, about 50% were either connected to another United Church or other faith and the rest had/have no existing relationships to a church or faith community.

Participants were invited to make a contribution towards covering the costs of this event, and between these donations and a \$500 grant from the All My Relations Network of Saskatchewan Conference of the United Church, we more than covered the costs of the event. This offers hopeful potential for how future events might be sustainable.

We hope to offer something similar to this learning opportunity in the fall of 2018 as certainly we have seen that there is an appetite for this kind of learning.

Follow Yonder Star

A Family Christmas Eve(nt) at the Artesian on 13th Ave

For the fourth year, Knox-Metropolitan United Church hosted Follow Yonder Star a Pop Up Pageant and Family Christmas Eve Service. This was the first year this happened at the Artesian on 13th Ave. It was a big success with over 80 people attending despite the frigid, snowy and blowy conditions that night!



Report from the Knox-Met Board

Submitted by Carol Schick, Board Chair

In keeping with the governance model used at Knox-Met, the work of the Board is organized around the **Open Questions** that are identified through board retreats and workshops. The Open Questions are meant to address significant topics that guide the overarching direction of the Board for a three-year period. To answer each of the three Questions, the Board engages in active research, information gathering and the consideration of expert opinion.

This report describes the work of the Board as it addressed the Open Questions for 2017. Also included are other Board activities organized through particular events or ad hoc committees.

Open Question 1. What building design will support our future ministry?

The Building Design Committee has had a mandate from the Board since 2015. In 2017, the Committee members included Gary Seib, Brian Brunskill, Tamara Renkas, John Jinks, Barbara Shourounis, Carol Schick, David Calam, Stewart Graham, and Cameron Fraser.

Following considerable research, the Committee engaged with Meraki Design Group to provide an assessment of the current state of the building, its systems, opportunities and constraints. In March of 2017, Meraki and Associates presented their findings to the Committee. In June, a brief summary of the Building Design was presented to the congregation at a special meeting on Sunday after worship. The summary was received enthusiastically. The Board accepted the schematic design proposal and asked the Building Design Committee to work with Meraki to move to Phase 2. This involved getting feedback and developing a schematic design that would address shortcomings of the building that have evolved over a century or more, as well as a design that would prepare for the future.

At the June meeting, the Board authorized the Chair to sign the required documents to finalize legal matters between the Church and the Meraki Design Group related to the Meraki Proposal. It also authorized the expenditure of not more than \$120,000 for the proposal to be paid out of the Church's trust funds. The Board approved a Second Mandate for the Building Design Committee for the purpose of continuing its work in anticipation of a plan from Meraki in 2018. In this Open Question, the building has been envisioned as a space of worship and connection, as premiere performance venue and a space where new possibilities may emerge.

Open Question 2. How shall we best engage with our financial resources to achieve the goals set out in the Future Plan?

In June, the Financial Resources Committee presented its report to the Board. Committee members include Alison Stickland, David Calam, Bill Johnson, John Keeler, Keith Reeve, Norm Brown, Carol Schick.

The Committee gathered information on the history and present state of the Church finances according to the following parameters: rising expenses, static revenues, an aging congregation, and the need to draw on cash reserves to balance the budget. It concluded that if the Church continues the present practice of drawing down the trust fund to cover operating deficits and capital expenditures, the result will be reduced earnings potential from the trust fund. In order to maintain the Church's place as a sustainable, relevant Christian institution serving the needs of a diverse membership, Knox-Met needs to take action. The report noted that while attempts to increase revenues and boost church attendance may seem like obvious solutions, the size of the problem renders these seemingly "easy" solutions incapable of achieving overall success. In fact, there has been growth in worship attendance and offerings at KMUC in recent years. The long-term projection, however,

requires us to be proactive, to engage in challenging conversations and to do the work necessary to ensure we will be a vibrant Christian community for years to come.

The Report recommended that the Board:

1. Create a Strategic Plan
2. Create an action plan for year-round stewardship and fundraising initiatives
3. Revisit the Church's Governance Document and its assignment of financial responsibilities between the Board and Ministries
4. Engage with EDGE.

The work of these recommendations began in the fall of 2017 and is on-going. For example, on the matter of stewardship, plans for a fall campaign were started at a meeting in June. The stewardship campaign, *We Sing Thanksgiving*, took place during the five weeks of October. Each week we heard members of the congregation speak about what being part of this community has meant to them in this place where we are called to be the church.

Board members made phone calls to all congregational members as the final part of campaign from 2016. The calls indicated our deep gratitude for the presence and participation of all congregational members worshipping at KMUC.

Open Question 3. As a faith community, what does it mean to be there when the future comes?

The Board participated in a retreat in February to examine its direction for the year and to create a Vision of Ministry that would guide its work. The result was the following statement: **To articulate and communicate who we are and aspire to be within the church and beyond.** The declaration of who we are as a church has been implicit in the following actions taken by the Board throughout 2017.

In November, the Board welcomed the congregation to a presentation that followed from the recommendation of the Financial Resources Committee as found in the preceding section. The presentation described the present financial state of KMUC and projections for the future. It became clear that the status quo is not an option if we are to continue as a lively, self-sustaining congregation.

This was followed by a presentation by consultant, Rob Dalgleish (Executive Director of the EDGE Network for Ministry and Renewal in the United Church). He offered an encouraging look at the creative efforts of other congregations across Canada who are facing similar circumstances. We saw alternatives already accomplished by other UC congregations and successful changes that have involved partnering with outside interests and community groups. There are many inspiring examples of how churches have reimagined their spaces to create a future for themselves and others.

Although change is not easy, the presentation illustrated why and how it is not only necessary, but how it might be possible for us at KMUC to "be there when the future comes". We have many resources and assets, perhaps most significantly the great many dedicated people who worship and meet at KMUC including all who have been discussing, researching and praying about the present state and future prospects.

At the close of the presentation the congregation indicated they would like the Board to continue the following endeavours over the next 6 to 12 months:

1. Work with the EDGE Network to provide expertise and tools regarding prospects and direction.
2. Engage with the congregation in conversations about what our future may hold.
3. Engage with potential community partners about a potential future in shared space.

Other Topics

Affirming Ministry: At the Annual General Meeting of 2017, the congregation voted to begin the program of exploration to become an Affirming Ministry. The steering group that is guiding this process consists of Monique Poisson-Fast, Gary Seib, Joan Baliko and Karen Haggman.

Explorers Program: In May, Ian Wilgus arrived for a 3-month stay at KMUC as part of the “Explorers Program” sponsored by The United Church of Canada to consider whether he wishes to pursue a career in the ministry. He was ably supported by the committee of Olumide Adetunji, Cathy Currie, Bonita Dolmage, Joyce Fraser, Shaun Poisson-Fast. More details may be found in a final report to Presbytery.

Bell Tower: Also in May, Treasurer John Keeler reported to the Board that the cost to repair the bell tower was coming to a close. Furthermore, the cost of repair was likely to come in under budget which, indeed, proved to be the case. This something worth ringing bells about.

JNAC: As a consequence of a change in ministry personnel at KMUC, the Church is obliged by Presbytery to conduct a Joint Needs Assessment in conjunction with the congregation. At the Board meeting in June, the following people were appointed to serve on this Committee: Elizabeth Calam, Bruce MacDonald, Chantal Poisson-Fast, Paula Ricci and Kate Johnson.

Remits: The United Church of Canada required presbyteries and pastoral charges to study and consider questions found in four remits and to vote on each question. The Board held two meetings to discuss the questions with members of the congregation and to seek their advice from. At the June meeting, the Board conducted the vote on the four remits. The outcome was that the Board voted in the affirmative for each of the four remits.

Special Thanks

In closing, I wish to recognize the many people who have been volunteering at our church throughout the past year. They have done the many tasks that are both obvious and not-so noticeable to maintain us as a congregation. They serve on named and unnamed committees. They are members of ministries and the Board. They are the staff, and occasional and regular participants in all aspects of the life of KMUC. Their gifts are offered in abundance from whom all blessings flow. Thank you.

Finally, I wish to recognize the long term service of five members who have served as leaders for many years and whose tenure is now at a close. Please help me to thank them for their extended service as they now step down from their positions. Note that these are only some of their significant contributions over the years.

Alison Stickland, Chair of Trustees, Board member
Ethia Brown, Chair of Congregational Life, Trustee
Bob Ivanochko, Chair of Outreach Committee, Board member
Marlene Hall, Chair of Christian Education
John Keeler, Treasurer, Member of Board and Ministries

Knox-Metropolitan United Church - Narrative Budget 2018

Expenses - in 2018, we will need approx. \$472,200.00 to fulfill our vision & ministry.

Staff and Personnel - 63% - \$295,200.00

Our Staff and Personnel animate much of our vision and ministry through the planning and leading of Sunday Services, the management of the day-to-day runnings of the building and supporting the programming and ministry efforts of our volunteers. We are blessed to have a robust staff team - Minister, Director of Music, Office Administrator, and 2 caretakers (one full-time & one evenings and weekends) as well as part time Communications Support Position.

Administrative Costs - 32% - \$149,500.00

Our building at the corner of Victoria and Lorne is a landmark in downtown Regina, described as a 'jewel in our urban landscape'. We have a multi-purpose building that requires constant upkeep to keep it safe and inviting while, rental of our space brings in needed income. Repairs and upgrades are completed to increase energy efficiency and to make the space better meet our needs as a congregation and the needs of the community. Expenses also include insurance, office supplies, advertising and our contributions to the work of the broader United Church of Canada.

Ministries and Programming - 5% - \$27,500.00

Worship (Word Worship Music and the Arts) - Worship and music fill us with awe and connect us to God to fuel our individual and collective work in the world. Weekly worship and special celebrations are a major focus of our staff and volunteer time.

Learning (Christian Education) - We explore questions of faith in a variety of ways - Sunday School, youth confirmation and adult study groups and learning events

Caring (Congregation Life and Pastoral Care) - Through Coffee times, social events, hospital visits, arranging transportation and much more, we care for each other through life's ups & downs.

Reaching Out (Outreach, Social Justice & Refugee Sponsorship) - We raise awareness about issues of great importance, work to welcome refugees, and offer support to groups locally, nationally and internationally.

Partnering - We work with like-minded organizations to pursue common goals, such as the *Regina Anti-Poverty Ministry, Lumsden Beach Camp, the Ethiopian Refugee Support Association and more.*

Innovating - We seek to be church relevant to modern needs through special events like our Labyrinth Walks, Exploring Spirituality Series, Special Speakers and Community Lectures and more.

Income - in 2018 we expect \$314,700 (a 10% increase over 2017) from a variety of sources:

Envelope Offerings & PAR -	57% - \$180,000.00
Rental Income -	22% - \$70,000
Donations -	6.5% - \$20,000.00
Fundraising -	6.5% - \$20,000.00
Loose/Occasional Offerings -	5% - \$16,500.00
Miscellaneous -	2% - \$6,200.00
Weddings -	1% - \$2,000.00

In 2018 we will transfer up to \$157,500.00 from our investments to cover operating expenses. This amount is down \$17,500 over what was budgeted in 2017.

A Full itemized budget follows on the next page.

Itemized Budget (proposed)

Budget Details				Actual - 31/12/2017	Actual - 31/12/2016	2018 Budget
				(12 months)	(12 months)	
REVENUES:						
Envelope/PAR Offerings			\$ 177,088	\$ 177,803	\$ 180,000	
Loose Offerings			\$ 16,547	\$ 13,031	\$ 16,500	
Special Gifts Initial Envelopes			\$ 275	\$ 232	\$ 400	
Special Gifts Easter, Christmas, Thanksgiving			\$ 1,142	\$ 1,326	\$ 950	
Taxi Fund			\$ -	\$ 40	\$ 50	
Donations			\$ 17,141	\$ 18,837	\$ 20,000	
Fund Raising			\$ 20,453	\$ 14,268	\$ 20,000	
Other Revenue Sources			\$ 5,225	\$ 2,791	\$ 3,000	
Rentals			\$ 66,826	\$ 57,231	\$ 70,000	
Weddings			\$ 1,850	\$ 2,100	\$ 1,800	
GST Rebate			\$ 2,807	\$ 1,587	\$ 2,000	
Total Revenues			\$309,354	\$289,246	\$314,700	

EXPENDITURES:						
PERSONNEL COSTS:						
Salaries			\$ 175,841	\$ 235,248	\$ 215,000	
Employee Benefits			\$ 27,253	\$ 36,720	\$ 30,000	
KMUC portion CPP & EI			\$ 11,224	\$ 17,160	\$ 15,000	
Housing			\$ 18,000	\$ 30,750	\$ 18,000	
Sub Total			\$ 232,318	\$ 319,878	\$ 278,000	
Car allowance			\$ -	\$ 923	\$ 1,000	
Telephone allowance			\$ 780	\$ 1,060	\$ 800	
Learning Resources & Books			\$ 2,300	\$ 3,878	\$ 2,300	
Casual staff			\$ 13,974	\$ 2,221	\$ 12,000	
Workers Compensation			\$ 997	\$ 839	\$ 1,100	
TOTAL PERSONNEL COSTS			\$ 250,369	\$ 328,799	\$ 295,200	

MINISTRIES & PROGRAMS:				(12 months)	(12 months)	
Christian Education			\$ 1,435	\$ 1,573	\$ 1,500	
Congregational Life			\$ 1,905	\$ 1,544	\$ 2,000	
Good Samaritan			\$ 75	\$ 154	\$ 250	
Communications Ministry			\$ 3,028	\$ 99	\$ 3,000	
Outreach & Social Action			\$ 2,000	\$ 3,250	\$ 3,000	
Planning/ Implementation - Programs			\$ 8,411	\$ 7,658	\$ 10,000	
Partnership Initiatives			\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -	
Donations (Qualified Donees)			\$ 706	\$ 750	\$ 750	
Word, Worship, Music & Arts			\$ 4,388	\$ 4,899	\$ 7,000	
Total Ministries & Programs Costs			\$ 26,948	\$ 24,927	\$ 27,500	

Financial Information as of December 31, 2017	Actual - 31/12/2017	Actual - 31/12/2016	2018 Budget
ADMINISTRATION & OFFICE EXPENSES			
Caretaking Supplies	\$ 11,013	\$ 7,926	\$ 12,000
Insurance	\$ 10,618	\$ 12,776	\$ 14,000
Organ/Piano Repair & Maintenance	\$ 1,808	\$ 903	\$ 2,500
Presbytery Assessment	\$ 17,582	\$ 16,863	\$ 18,000
Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 32,889	\$ 31,674	\$ 35,000
Telephone	\$ 5,327	\$ 4,712	\$ 6,000
Utilities	\$ 22,074	\$ 28,673	\$ 30,000
Total Administration Costs	\$ 101,311	\$ 103,527	\$ 117,500
General Office Expenses			
Advertising	\$ 3,488	\$ 3,091	\$ 5,000
Bank Fees & Other Charges	\$ 661	\$ 1,042	\$ 1,000
IT Services	\$ 822	\$ 746	\$ 1,200
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$ 2,403	\$ 1,776	\$ 2,000
Printing & Office Supplies	\$ 9,347	\$ 7,536	\$ 10,000
Professional Fees - Accounting	\$ 3,797	\$ 3,547	\$ 4,000
Property Taxes - Lane costs	\$ 752	\$ 728	\$ 800
Rental & Weddings	\$ 7,342	\$ 4,147	\$ 8,000
Total Office Expenses	\$ 28,612	\$ 22,613	\$ 32,000
Total Administration & Office Expenses	\$ 129,923	\$ 126,140	\$ 149,500
<u>Revenues/Expenses</u>	-\$ 97,886	-\$ 190,620	-\$ 157,500
Trustee Transfers to cover expenses	\$ 150,000	\$ 252,018	\$ 157,500
	\$ 52,114	\$ 61,398	\$ -
Revenue from Offerings, Donations, Rentals; etc	\$ 309,354	\$289,246	\$314,700
less			
Total Expenditures	\$ 407,240	\$ 479,866	\$ 472,200
<u>Expenses exceeds Revenues</u>	-\$ 97,886	-\$ 190,620	-\$ 157,500

Ministry Council

Administration

Submitted by Keith Rever, Chair

The Ministry of Administration is responsible for all the interior and exterior physical needs of the building, as well as its financial needs.

We express our sincere thanks to John Keeler, our Treasurer for the past many years. John has done a wonderful job of getting our financial accounting up to the highest standards, and we thank him sincerely for all the time and effort he has spent in upgrading the church's accounting.

We also thank Brian Brunskill for continuing to oversee the general maintenance of the church and all major repairs. We continue to work on the church's heating system and many improvements have been made to ensure heat to all parts of the building, especially the Christian Education wing.

Purchase of a new sign, at a cost of \$1500, was approved and is working well. This purchase was necessitated since a rental sign was no longer available. The sign will pay for itself quickly as we sell advertising to those holding concerts at the church.

The purchase of new chairs was approved and recommended to the Board.

Meetings were held with SaskPower during the year. They will be dismantling the old substation building directly behind the church this year and will be rebuilding the cable ducts in the lane behind the church this summer. This will result in a loss of parking stalls during this period, and SaskPower will arrange for 2 stalls as close as available to the church during this period (Estimated to be from June to September).

During the year, job descriptions were reviewed with all staff and revised as required.

Before closing we thank Erwin Jones for the many years he served on the Administration Ministry. Erwin's input will be greatly missed.

We also thank Stewart Graham for his work as Chair of the "Use of Church". The church rental rates were raised this past year resulting in an increase in revenue.

We thank the caretakers for all their effort in keeping the church clean for all the meetings and concerts held during the year. We also thank Hart and Janice for overseeing the caretakers and for ensuring replacements are available for necessary.

We also thank Ann Swinton, Leo and Carol Ortman and any others who helped in administering and recording collections each week, and Marianne Rever for scheduling collection counters and all those who counted collection this year.

As special thanks to Marlene Hall and all who helped keep our grounds beautiful throughout the summer.

In closing, I would like to thank all the members of the Administration Ministry for their support and assistance during the past year. These members are John Keeler (church Treasurer), Norm Brown (Secretary), Cam Fraser, Brian Brunskill, Joan Garden, Jim Garden, Stewart Graham, Erwin Jones, Phyllis Perkins and Stuart Mann.

Use of Church

Submitted by Stewart Graham, Chair, on behalf of Janice Diemert and Hart Godden.

Use of Church Committee continues as part of the Ministry of Administration.

Rental income once again made a significant financial contribution to our church revenues.

During the past year, we earned rental income of \$66,826. (including \$4,942. from 2016), an increase of \$9,595 over the prior year. In addition, wedding revenue was \$1850. Expenses associated with rental income were \$7,342. Total net rental and wedding income was \$61,334. This represents some 20% of our total revenue for the year.

Our church is a wonderful venue that satisfies the rental requirements for a wide variety of tenants who find our location well situated and very accommodating. We have 29 regular renters and 17 occasional renters.

Each year we provide to the Regina Anti-Poverty Ministry (RAPM), without charge, office space, heat, light, maintenance, cleaning services, and parking, to a value of \$12,600.00

Major renters of space are the Regina Symphony, South Saskatchewan Youth Orchestra, Cecilian Chamber Series, Regina Taiji and Weight Watchers. We rent space to a number of 12 Step Program groups and this year the Regina Rotary Club celebrated their 77th annual Christmas Carol Festival at our church.

Janice Diemert and Hart Godden provide excellent support for our rental program and capably handle the various rentals in a most satisfactory manner.

Stewardship

We Sing Thanksgiving – Celebrating our Call to be Church

Our Stewardship Campaign for 2017 took place throughout the month of October. Over five Sunday's we had four special speakers offer personal reflections about their time at Knox-Metropolitan United Church and what it has meant to them (thanks to Tamara Renkas, Ruth Copeland, Paul Clarke and Carol Schick).

Sermons during this month explored the story of Knox-Met as a Community of Faith and what it has meant to people, the United Church Mission and Service Fund and a call to look forward to our eventual Future Planning Process (which has become known as Being There When the Future Comes).

Members of the Congregation were invited to add to a growing installation in the Lower Hall – leaves of Thanksgiving, a large colouring sheet of hope, candles that add more and more light into the world and puzzle pieces to remind us how we are connected.

The Campaign can certainly be considered a success with many enthusiastic returns of our annual pledge sheets, increased givings and new people signing on to PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance).

The Stewardship Campaign for 2017 was designed by Keith Rever, John Keeler, Stewart Graham, Phyllis Perkins, Gary Seib, Carol Schick and Cam Fraser.

Christian Education

Members: Marlene Hall, Susan McLaren, Jean Parker, Cam Fraser

2017 brought change to the Ministry of Christian Education, as after the summer, Marlene Hall ended her many, many years of leadership in this area with the deep gratitude of the church and years of loving students. Her weekly leadership will be missed and not forgotten and her on-going presence, encouragement and support of young people, as well as cheer-leading and advocating for the involvement of children in the church continues!



Starting in the fall of 2017, rotating teachers used Holy Moly a video based curriculum for children on a weekly basis (thanks to Krystal Griswold, Tamara Renkas and Peter/Paula Ricci for teaching classes in the fall/winter). Sprouts for Pre-K to Grades 2 ran as often as possible, using Godly Play (Waldorf Inspired curriculum) with the leadership of Cheryl Hymus-Fraser.

The Knox-Met nursery under the leadership of Susan McLaren continues to offer a safe play space for our littlest worshippers. On weeks when Susan was not available, Sandra Etter and Eilis Gribbon (from Lumsden Beach Camp) supervised the nursery.

The Knox-Met Library continues to offer themed book suggestions through the Book Table and Jean Parker slips in the occasional new item as well as seasonal Devotional books.

Christian Education continues to facilitate the subscriptions for the Upper Room Devotional to 12 subscribers. The ministry also makes available United Church Calendars to Knox-Met members as well as other congregations in Regina. The cost of both these items is covered by the individual subscribers.

In addition to the TRC related adult/community education efforts mentioned elsewhere, adult study activities included Lectionary @ Lunch, and a 4 week fall study on The Divine Dance by Richard Rohr which ran in parallel with a Sunday morning Sermon Series.

In 2017, the Christian Education Ministry spent \$1,435 of \$1,500 budgeted which covered curriculum, Sunday snacks and materials for all classes, books for Unsettling Ideas lending library and study groups as well as the Book Table.

In 2018, the JNAC and Future Planning Processes will certainly be considering closely the future of ministry to/with Children, Youth, and their Families as we continue to see growth in these areas. New young families have been engaging with Knox-Met and we are delighted to see that the Children's area at the front of the Sanctuary is swelling and may soon need to be expanded.

Congregational Life

Submitted by Ethia Brown. Members are: Ethia Brown, Liz Calam, Marianne Rever, Susan Etter, Ruth Copeland, Iris Carroll, Donna Jones and Linda Schreiner.

The Annual Pie Social and Auction was held on Jan. 29 with Bill Johnson as our auctioneer. This is a fun and tasty way to raise \$2,126 for Knox funds.

The Annual Pancake brunch was held on Feb.26 and \$500 was raised.

To celebrate Easter hot cross buns were served during Fellowship Hour.

The Annual Book sale was held on April 21 and 22. Thanks to many folks this was another big success.



A Forever in Motion exercise class was started with Liz Calam, Jean Korley and Iris Carroll leading the group on Wednesday mornings.

Our 90 Plus History books were updated with Hans Eckart, Allan Smith and Stuart Mann being added thanks to Bev Lundahl.

90 Plus Birthday celebrations were held in March, July and November. There were 18 folks being honoured this year.

As a start to the fall programs Sundaes on Sunday was held on September 10.

Another successful Flea Market was held on September 30.

During the month of October \$355.00 was collected during Fellowship Hour to assist with coffee expenses.

Our Food and Fun Christmas Dinner was held on November 25 with 75 enjoying a tasty turkey dinner and great entertainment.

On December 5 there were 31 trees, cards and bulletins delivered to our shut in folks. Also there were 12 Tim Horton's cards given to friends of the church.

I am pleased to announce that Ruth Copeland is taking over as chair of Congregational Life effective February 2018.

Pastoral Care

Our team: Liz Ivanochko, Kate Johnson, Joan Baliko, Marianne Rever, Gloria and Ray Lutz, Elizabeth Calam.

Respectfully submitted by Elizabeth Calam

We now have a team of 7 visitors from Knox-Metropolitan United Church; covering hospitals, care homes, long-term care facilities, rehabilitation units and member's homes.

This year has seen the discontinuation, by the Saskatchewan Government, of the Departments of Hospital Chaplains from all hospitals throughout Saskatchewan. This means that there are no longer denominational lists of patients who have been admitted to the hospitals and therefore those of the Pastoral Care Team who were visiting the hospitals can no longer "find" congregation members. We must now completely rely on families and friends to let us know if anyone is in the hospitals and if they would like a visit.

So all of us are now visiting our church friends, wherever they may be, dividing the list of homes between us, and going to the hospitals when we know someone is there. As we do have several members living at the same residences we have held Tea Parties in their lounge and visited them all at the same time...a good way for them all to meet their fellow residents and for Cam to meet those who are unable to come to church. We all enjoyed good company and tea (and goodies) at Wintergreene in May and at College Park I in December. We hope to continue these fun events.

We thank the office staff for passing on to us any information they receive, and Cam for his support and the visits he makes to the hospitals and homes when people wish to see him. And we thank all those from our congregation who also quietly visit.

Christmas for Friends:

Donations 2017 \$575.00

Expenses \$575.00

(Trees, coffee cards, fruit)



Food and Fun Club

Food and Fun events are a time for companionship, conversation, a time to renew acquaintances and a chance to meet new friends.

In 2017 we had two events, our Spring Pot Luck and the Christmas Festive Feast. Sadly, we were not able to offer the Summer Barbecue and Lawn Bowling event.

The Spring Pot Luck supper was followed by “A trip to Morocco” a journey there made by Norm and Ethia Brown. Thank you to our helpers for setting up the room and to everyone who helped tidy up.

For our **Christmas Festive Feast**, Arben of Tracks Cafe again provided a splendid meal. This was followed by musical entertainment with Carol Schick, Paul Clarke Carol Olmas accompanied by Barbara Shourounis, and seasonal readings by George Grassick. Another big “thank you” to the helpers who set up the evening and to everyone who helped clear up.

And a special thanks to pianist Garth Solar, who entertains us all as we gather for all events. We are so lucky to have so many talented friends!

Though we are not a “fund raising” group we do slowly accumulate money, which has been used over the years to purchase decorations for the Sanctuary and a DVD player and television set for use by the Sunday school. This past year we purchased a new pre-lit Christmas tree for use in the Lower Hall. We look forward to using it next Christmas.

Submitted by David and Elizabeth Calam

Forever... in Motion

“Forever...in motion” was developed in Saskatchewan to help older adults become and stay physically active though volunteer led physical activity sessions. This program has been available in Regina for 5 years in churches, senior’s homes, community centres and apartment buildings.

Knox-Metropolitan is lucky enough to have three FIM trained volunteers (Elizabeth Calam, Jean Korley and Iris Caroll) amongst our congregation. In September we started “Forever...in motion” sessions, meeting once weekly, and welcome men and women for gentle exercises encompassing warm up, strengthening, cardio, balance and flexibility. Best of all, the program is free.

The program ran from September to December, 2017 and then January to March 2018. Hopefully we can restart in September, but sadly Iris and Jean will not be able to continue. We invite anyone interested in becoming a FIM leader to talk to Elizabeth Calam about the training sessions, which are held in Regina several times a year, and consist of four 5-hour sessions and are free.

Outreach and Social Action

Submitted by Greg Horsman.

The Knox-Met Outreach and Social Action Committee meets every second Wednesday of the month to manage various activities on behalf of the congregation.

The following outlines the main activities of the Outreach Committee during 2017.

1. In January Bob Ivanochko stepped down as Chair of Outreach Ministry and Greg Horsman assumed the Chair.
2. Outreach assisted in ongoing fundraising projects:
 - a. Lunch for the spring Book & Music sale, proceeds from lunch sales to support the Refugee Fund
 - b. Organize the lunch for the Flea Market, proceeds donated to Refugee Fund
 - c. Coordinated the Special Christmas offering: this year one-third went to Refugee Fund, one-third to Sandy Bay Saulteaux Spiritual Centre, and one-third to Sheepfold in Bethlehem.
3. Donnie Wood assumed the responsibility from Joyce Wells for transferring the donations in the Carmichael bin to the Carmichael Centre.
4. Outreach is responsible for coordinating activities around the Peace Park, such as securing new plants.
5. Bob Ivanochko represents Outreach Ministry on a committee developing the Regina Industrial School cemetery as a historical site. Outreach supported a film program with a \$250.00 donation.
6. Harold Alkema developed a letter writing program to familiarize the government with the need to address the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Call to Action No. 82: to place a visible public monument in the capitals of all provinces that hosted residential schools. This process is continues in 2018.
7. Refugee functions previously done by a sub-committee of the Outreach Committee was transferred to the new Refugee Committee, chaired by Bob Ivanochko, and reporting to the Board.



Word, Worship, Music and Arts

Ministry members: Elizabeth Calam (Chair), Kate Johnson, Deanna Zak, Ev Mazurkie, Donna Jones, Tom Stickland and Cam Fraser.

We meet the second Wednesday of each month from September to May (though this can vary as necessary) to plan our weekly and special services. 2017 was much like any other year...full of wonderful services and help from many wonderful people in so many ways.

As we progressed through the Seasons of the Church Year we had many special services, including Epiphany, Lent, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter, Pentecost, Thanksgiving, Remembrance Sunday, Advent, Memorial Service and four services on Christmas Eve. And, of course, all those in between!

We celebrated Communion on 9 occasions throughout the year, and were very pleased to have some of our younger members to help serve the elements on several Sundays. Our thanks go to Ev Mazurkie who prepares the elements and Donna Jones who organizes our servers.



When Cam was away on holiday, or study leave, we welcomed as Pulpit Supply Carol Schick, Lorne Calvert, Peter Gilmer and Sharlene McGowan to lead our services and bring us their message.

During this year we formed an "Emergency Coverage" group of church members who could step into the pulpit on short notice in case illness or family urgency should prevent Cam from being with us. Hopefully we (Elizabeth and David Calam, Carol Schick, Sharlene McGowan, Kate Johnson, Peter Gilmer, Shaun Poissant-Fast, Barbara Shourounis) are never needed!

Our Sanctuary is a beautiful space, but we are always delighted when it and all of our spaces throughout the church are enhanced with floral decorations, plants, artwork or seasonal displays. Deanna Zak certainly works her magic, and over the past year Joan Garden, Kelly Chiu, Ruth Copeland and Elizabeth Calam have helped her. Stewart and Gilda Graham again took on the task of putting up (and taking down) the balcony garlands and wreaths for Christmas, and many others helped with the rest of the sanctuary decoration.

Members from a team of over 40 Greeters and Ushers welcome us as we arrive each Sunday. For much of the past year Ethel Griswold arranged the greeters/ushers for each month and we were saddened when she had to step down.

During the summer weeks members from each Ministry or committee served as greeters and ushers one Sunday. I am grateful to all those who assisted in this important role. Thank you!

Three years ago, after many years absence, we were delighted to welcome Tom Stickland back to WWMA, and for the past two years Tom looked after the roster of readers for our worship services.

He is going to be missed very much by us all.

The Ministry of Word, Worship, Music and the Arts wishes to thank:



Hart Godden and the choirs for their gifts of music; the office staff for their support and help as needed; John Keeler for helping us care for our monies; Cam for encouragement and guidance throughout the year; and all those from our “church family” for helping whenever asked.

If you are interested in joining our Ministry in any way, please speak with any of our members. We are still looking for someone to coordinate our Greeters and Ushers so please “do not be shy in coming forward!”

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Calam, Chair of The Ministry of Word, Worship, Music and the Arts.

Budget 2017: \$6,000.00

Expenditures 2017: \$4,388.00

(Expenditures are for Communion supplies, Music, Soloists, Nimbus Water and Choir gown cleaning and repair)

Flower Fund donations 2017: \$884.00

Expenditures 2017: \$684.00

Committees

Ministry and Personnel

Members: David Calam, Susan McLaren (chair), Al Schreiner, Barbara Shouronis, Tracy Jinks (resigned)

Regular meetings were held monthly except during July and August. In January a Christmas/New Year Luncheon was held for all the staff. Annual Reviews were held with each of the staff and ministry personnel. There were a few individual meetings held during the year.

Respectfully submitted, Susan McLaren

Refugee Committee

The Refugee Committee members are: Amanuel Abraha, Dessie Gebreyesus, Rod and Emily Nenson, Bill Quick, Girma Sahlu, and Bob Ivanochko as Chairperson. Serena Rieck has agreed to join the committee in Mar 2018.

The committee met in October, November, and December. In addition some members had 2 other meetings to interview members of eight families wishing to sponsor some of their relatives. In most cases the family in Regina is prepared to cover all costs of the sponsorships. As we have received the Board's approval for Amanuel Abrarha's 2 nephews, some members of the committee have met on a few occasions to complete the application forms which have been forwarded to the National Office and they are in the queue for 2018.

The Refugee Committee, in our December meeting, approved a long standing request from the Ethiopian Refugee Committee to co-sponsor two priests and 2 deacons. This request was forwarded to the Knox-Met Board.

On-going Refugee Co-Sponsorship Requests:

2011 – A request was made to link Rehab Dangew Mesfinand her son Awat to that of Nahed Asmelash (Haydir Legesse's) request. Rehab is Haydir's niece (Nikki Legesse's daughter). We are following up this request.

2015 – A request was made to co-sponsor with Hassan Zainulabdeen, his brother Ahmed Zainulabdeen and his wife, refugees from Iraq who were in Amman, Jordan. They returned to Iraq and when the Canadian Embassy in Amman scheduled an interview, they were not available. This request is inactive.

2017 –We made 2 requests for Amanuel Abraha's nephews. Nahom Tesfamichael in Sudan and Fikremarian Weldemichael in Israel. As the National Office had filled their quota, these requests are in a queue for 2018.

Submitted by, Bob Ivanochko, Chair-Refugee Committee

Other Groups

Wascana Presbytery

Wascana Presbytery includes 22 pastoral charges, 12 rural and 10 urban. There are currently 7 pastoral charges which do not intend to call or appoint a minister, therefore needing a pastoral charge supervisor. It also includes two special ministries, Regina Anti-Poverty Ministry(RAPM) and South Saskatchewan Hospital Chaplaincy shared with Twin Valleys, Chinook and Good Spirit presbyteries. Incorporated bodies in the presbytery are United Church Housing (Mutchmor Lodge & Hewitt Place), Clare Parker House and Lumsden Beach Camp (LBC).

There are 2 pastoral charges involved in joint needs assessment and search processes. Heritage is engaged in Interim Ministry with Jamie Bushell.

Wascana Presbytery met four times in the past church year - 3 one day meetings and a June potluck, business meeting and celebration of ministries. The Presbytery designed a process for careful consideration for the Remits from GC42. These took considerable time at each meeting but feedback from presbyters was that they appreciated having time to discuss the remits in depth. Wascana Presbytery voted in favour of Remits 2,5,7 & 8 and defeated Remits 1, 3 & 4. Although recognizing the need for change, there was concern that the 3 court system concentrated the decision-making power and financial resources in the denominational court and connections for congregations were not clear.

Presbytery appreciated hearing from Liz Mackenzie explaining the new compensation model for ministry personnel, reports from RAPM and LBC and time with Krystal Sheremeta, President of Conference. LBC is involved in a visioning/planning process with the help of EDGE. Wascana was very concerned about the Saskatchewan Government decision regarding Spiritual Care in our hospitals. Removing the administration makes it almost impossible for paid chaplains and volunteers to reach the people who need them. Wascana has participated in an ecumenical group which is trying to address these concerns (with little success so far).

We now know that Remits 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 & 8 were approved by a majority of presbyteries and pastoral charges. On January 10, the Boundaries Commissions released its report indicating that there would be 17 Regional Councils. Saskatchewan is a region in itself. The major concern that still exists is that the staffing of the regions is unknown. Also, there is encouragement to consider forming clusters but those clusters have no official standing, financial resources or staffing. Nonetheless, Wascana realizes that in this area we need to turn to the future and plan for ministry to serve the people and to seek and act in justly. Therefore at the January 20 Presbytery meeting, we are devoting the afternoon to a process to receive accurate and up to date information, uplift what has been important to us and to celebrate what we have been and to shift the focus from the past to the future.



Clare Parker Homes Inc. 2017 Annual Report to Congregations

Clare Parker Homes (the agency) has had a busy year. This includes planning and development of one new home with three individuals that have been residing at the Valley View Centre in Moose Jaw. This home will open April 2018.

The addition of this home has allowed us to expand to 6 homes in the community and have a Community Inclusion Program (quality of life day program) to support all of our homes. It means that 24 residents and their families know that their family members are living in comfortable and safe home environments around the community and actively engaged in community activities. The agency continues to journey down the path of Gentle Teaching accreditation as well as continue to strengthen the person-centred care, increase quality of life for the people that we serve and develop a greater community presence.

Our agency is known as a local employer of choice: involving a team of seventy permanent, part-time and casual staff to deliver 24-hour care services throughout the agency. Many of our staff bring international experience that adds cultural richness to our homes, and provides fulfilling employment for those entering the Canadian workforce for the first time. Over the last three years, our staff turnover rate has been less than 2%, and we know that those that have moved into other employment settings have been well trained and adapt easily into other work settings around the community.

As the structure of the national church level has changed recently, incorporated housing ministries in the province have been granted legal separation meaning that effective 2017 Clare Parker is no longer obligated to report to church structures. However, at the local level, we are indebted to the solid and sound leadership of United Churches that has enabled our agency to grow and flourish. We value the broad mix of professional, church, family and community board members thus ensuring that all aspects of issues are considered, with spirited discussion lending itself to sound decision-making. We desire to maintain the same local relationships that have been established so carefully since the agency's inception in 1976.

Early in 2017, the agency began working with the Ministry of Social Services to develop a replacement plan for one of our older homes in which 5 people reside. However, with the budget restraints the Provincial government is currently facing, the replacement will be a cost incurred by the agency. The agency will actively be fundraising and working with different community partners to support this project.

Through the work of our Community Inclusion, we continue to have many partnerships in the community and have been able to support local community initiatives. Some of our residents spend time volunteering at REACH (Regina Education & Action on Child Hunger), and as a result we have been able to establish a valued place for these volunteers. This program has allowed for 2 of our residents to find meaningful paid employment in the community at Tom's Independent Grocers and ReStore.

Through partnerships with Saskatchewan Polytechnic, Chip & Dale Homes and Citizen's All (Moose Jaw) we continue to be able to bring the Disability Support Worker Certificate program to Regina to better educate our employees. The agency has partnered with Bed, Bath and Beyond and the Good 360 program in order to receive donations for Household items regularly.

Upon reflection, we are blessed by all the staff, volunteer, and family commitment in support of our agency. We look forward to continued enhancements and improvements during 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosa Smith,
Executive Director

Affirming Ministries Group

At the Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 26, 2017, the congregation considered a proposal to begin a process of discernment about becoming an Affirming Ministry. At this time, there are three Affirming Ministries in Regina (Eastside, Sunset, St. James), and 1 currently finishing the process (Wesley).

Affirming Ministries are dedicated to offering explicit, public, and enthusiastic welcome to all people regardless of race, ethnicity, age, ability, economic status, and particularly regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity. The focus on sexual orientation and gender identity is due to the fact that these groups have been publicly and explicitly condemned and excluded from the Christian Community in the past, and remain so today in many parts of the Christian Church.

Following the decision by the congregation to pursue this, Knox-Metropolitan United Church will spend one or more years learning, discussing and discerning. If we choose to move forward, we will adopt a Statement of Affirming, become a member of the National Network Affirm United, hold a public celebration of Affirming, and commit to on-going work in this area.

To guide this process, a small group of volunteers has been created; this is an open group and others could join if interested. The group is made up of Karen Haggman (Chair), Gary Seib, Monique Poisson-Fast, Joan Baliko (who stepped down early 2018), Aaron Balkaran, as well as Carol Schick as Chair of the Board, and Cam Fraser as Minister.

In 2017, the group did the following:

- Created a print and online survey and collated the 26 responses.
- Held open meetings allowing anyone in the congregation to come and discuss these issues.
- Distributed a one-page information sheet describing Affirming Ministry processes.

The group has purposefully held few events because of the work being done by the JNAC and the Board around future planning.

In 2018, the group intends to offer resources for personal reflection through the Book Table, hold congregational discussion times, bring in guest speakers, and create a semi-regular Affirming Corner column in the Knox-Met Bulletin/E-Announcements to answer questions brought up in the congregational survey.

The Affirming Ministries Group offers an open invitation for anyone to attend the first 20 minutes of their meetings (which are held monthly immediately after worship) to ask questions, make comments or discuss anything with the group.

We can be contacted at any time via email affirming@knoxmetregina.org.



The Regina Bell Ringers

Submitted by Carol Benesh/Garth Solar

Over the course of the year 2017, the Regina Bell Ringers participated in the following celebrations and events:

- Weddings – 4
- Funerals – 4
- Memorials – 2; Hugh Hefner, Princess Diana
- Handbells – 1
- World Religion Day - 3rd Sunday in January – 1
- Darke Memorial Chimes - 25

Regular events – 14

- Fall Concert Series – 5
- Christmas Evening and Day – 2
- Good Friday Tolling -1
- Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Day (Sep 9) – 1
- Rotary Carol Festival – 4 nights
- International Day of Peace – 1

Special Events – 4

- City of Regina - Light the Lights Festival
- Canada 150
- Martin Luther – 500-year anniversary
- 70th anniversary of the Queen and Prince Philip

Pre-event openings – 7

- Symphony (1)
- Philharmonic (1)
- Halcyon (1)
- Cecilian Concert Series (2)
- Per Sonatori (1)
- Brassband (1)

The art gallery between the bells and ringing room was opened in spring. 30 works were donated in 2017 representing 26 artists.

The Apprenticeship Program, under the direction of Wayne Tunison and Carol Benesh continued throughout the year. The repertoire of the Bell Ringers has expanded by approximately 79 pieces.

The bell ringers along with church members participated with the Regina Downtown Business Improvement district Doors Open Regina event, with over 100 people in attendance.

There were approximately 200 people through for bell tours.

Book and Music Sale

Our annual Book and Music Sale was held on Friday, April 21 and Saturday, April 22, 2017. We started on Wednesday morning in an empty Lower Hall with a great pile of books. Over the next few days we worked, box by box, to make order out of the thousands of books. Workers came and went as they were able.

By Friday morning our Hall was filled with tables of books neatly arranged and labelled with bright pink signs. At noon the doors opened, and the people came steadily throughout the next two days to buy the books and music. Some had a list of books they wanted, but most quietly browsed through the aisles, recognizing books they had already read and deciding what new books they wanted to buy.

Many customers took time out to enjoy coffee and a muffin served by the Outreach Ministry on Friday or a chili lunch on Saturday. On Saturday they were also able to buy treats from the bake sale table.



At 4 o'clock on Saturday our doors closed. A great team of people, including many from the Ethiopian community, quickly packed up the unsold books. Chief Justice Bob Richards took many boxes of softcover books for distribution to the provincial jails as in past years. He left us a donation of \$400. Other books went to the Salvation Army Thrift Shops, Value Village, Aboriginal Grandmothers Raising Grandchildren and Transition House.

Our sale was a great financial success. We raised \$8650, up \$2100 over last year. Adding in the \$450 from the sale of baking, we made over \$9100.

In addition to the money we raised, was the rich time we had working together and the chance to welcome people from all over the city to our Church.

Thanks to:

- everyone who helped move, sort, display and sell the books,
- the people who manned the cash desk,
- Stewart Graham and Al Schreiner who kept track of the cash,
- Ethia Brown who arranged for the shopping baskets,
- Phyllis Perkins and the women who looked after the bake sale table,
- Outreach for the delicious food and drink, and
- Kate Johnson who helped so many ways.

Submitted by, Barbara Shourounis - Book Sale Coordinator



Space for your Spirit • Conversations that Matter
Music for your Soul • Companions on your Journey