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St. Paul's Vision & Mission Statement

Vision of our Congregation

We will be a spiritual home where: God and Jesus Christ are celebrated; diversity is embraced; and people are nurtured so that we can serve others.

Mission of our Congregation

We will provide services, programs, and opportunities to build, to strengthen and to enrich our faith so that we can better serve our families, our communities, and our world.

Statement of Affirmation

St. Paul's United Church is an Affirming Congregation within the United Church of Canada. As such we reach out with love and acceptance to all those who come through our doors regardless of sexual orientation, age, gender, racial or ethnic background, differing abilities, economic or cultural background. As a community of faith, we strive to make St. Paul's United Church a safe place for all and a voice for social justice.

From the Board Chair

The first hymn, Number 1, in *More Voices* is *Let Us Build a House*

*Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
A place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive,
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions,
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.*

One late afternoon as I parked my car across from the front doors I saw two men walk down 76 Ave and turn down to the front of the church. One man led the other up the steps and pointed out the rainbow sign at our front door. Then they went on their way.

That sign says “You are welcome here”

This seems to me to be a theme for this year, building a House where all are welcome.

We have welcomed our Rainbow Refugees and they quickly found a place in our hearts. We have welcomed many others to St. Paul's from far and from just around the corner. I am so glad you are here.

Each Sunday our service starts with a welcome to all, whoever you are, whatever has brought you here. The music, the flowers, the Affirm banners, the welcome at the door and the coffee are all part of the welcome. Our children feel comfortable enough to run up the aisle to the front.

Every day of the week we welcome people to St. Paul's. The Intercultural Ministry Team of Edmonton Presbytery offers ESL classes in our basement. Support groups meet. People make music. We join together at Day 5, at teas and luncheons and programs.

The love spreads out. Under the wonderful leadership of the Social Justice Team we have been able to support and assist people as they build their homes in our city. The quilts made by the Quilters go out the doors and into the world. We support Racecourse School and other programs around the world and the Faithlift program at the University.

Some of the things the Official Board has focused on this year have been to build the welcome, new signage and landscaping, keeping the furnace going and the lights on, and fighting for parking spaces.

To do all these wonderful things takes many people and I thank our wonderful staff, all the people who lead the projects and the many, many people who are steadfast in their commitment and actions to make St. Paul's a welcoming place.

In faith and respectfully submitted,
Coleen Falk
Chair of the Board

Ministerial & Staff Reports

Rev. Dr. Catherine F. MacLean

Senior Minister

Daniel Barasa brought me to tears when he spoke about life in a refugee camp. When he was asked what the greatest surprise was for him in Canada, he said it was that the preacher didn't change the scriptures and condemn him when he stepped into the sanctuary as had happened in the camp. Instead, he said, I welcomed him publicly with warmth and love. Can you imagine?

I certainly never imagined using scripture against him, or anyone. God loves us, every one, and it is my duty to remind you of that week-by-week. You might not forget, but if it drifts to the edge of your awareness, I'm here to lead you in prayer and listen to your story. I'm here to learn, too, to see God's grace as life flows on.

Our congregational themes give us focus as we express our identity as a faithful and growing church. They come from the issues I see pastorally, from the input of board members, from biblical texts, and from current events. Our theme through the winter and spring was *Bridging the Gap*. I trust we are bridging gaps in worship as well as housing, safety, and relationship with our friends who have come from Uganda. Our autumn theme, continuing in 2017, is *Dreaming It Forward*. We are living into God's shalom.

Worship

One of our gaps is Right Relations. The Worship Committee and Social Justice Team wondered how on Sundays we could indicate our engagement in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission; you will have noticed that Sunday worship bulletins read "on the lands of Treaty 6 peoples". Bill Phipps joined the Social Justice Team to lead worship and reflection on Right Relations in the spring. Each week I create a spoken welcome, which varies depending on what is already planned and noted in the Sunday liturgy. In many services this welcome refers to the TRC – as well as gender orientation, identity, and fluidity.

Each Sunday we take a moment to bless the children: as we sing a short piece for several weeks, they – and all of us - learn it and absorb the blessing it expresses. You will have noticed that teenagers and young adults read scripture most weeks; Denise prepares them. Susan and Tyson organize singers and instrumentalists from the congregation and guests, and we join in congregational song, that great unifier and teacher. We mix older and contemporary hymns, and make the choices with a scripture and preaching topic in mind.

For a few years the Spiritual Nurture Team has come up with ideas for Lenten spiritual practices. Joan, Daniel Greenways, and I worked with their concept this year: drawing on our theme of *Bridging the Gap*, we raised the screen to show an image of a bridge – some were local and some were photographed by and featured St. Paul's people. Each slide was reproduced on the printed bulletin

for the choir, persons with sight challenges, and for reflection at home. Each picture was chosen for a question:

What chasm might God be calling me – or us – to cross?

Who holds the light as I – or we – cross?

How firm is my – or our – foundation?

Who holds tight as I – or we – cross?

What baggage shall I drop in order to make this crossing?

Day 5, which was Maundy Thursday, Hugh Stacey and I led Tenebrae as “A Service of Shadows”. The candelabra in memory of Doug Stewart and presented by his family shone brilliantly in that service and later, in December evening worship. Good Friday the choir and I led worship with the reflection that “Into your hands I commit my spirit” comes from an ancient, daily Jewish bedtime prayer.

At Pentecost we experienced a dramatic reading with 15 speakers: Cree, German, English, French, Polish, Gaelic, Spanish, Russian and languages from Uganda and India. “God is Love,” we all said, and Daniel Greenways brought us my paraphrase of Peter’s sermon in Acts 2.

On June 5 our congregation joined other United churches at McDougall United for worship led by Alberta and Northwest Conference. Through July and August worship was held at St. Paul’s every Sunday. I led more services this summer than in the past five that we shared with Knox-Metropolitan. The themes I worked with were treasure and our cherished identity, made in God’s image.

The Spiritual Nurture Team asked the Worship Committee about including a regular spiritual practice of quiet in worship. The silent prayer begins as youth offer cues with bells, in Trinitarian form: three separately to begin, then three together to finish. Each week Tyson figures out the key to best suit the music that follows. There is a lot of integration and collaboration Sundays at St. Paul’s.

Dreaming It Forward in the autumn we considered the biblical Joel, and the dreams of Joseph and the family of Jacob. We worked through preaching themes such as family and empire, slippery slopes, slavery, hidden identities, being people of God’s dream, and “I dreamed of heaven and the earth sang” - social justice, community and final things. We also looked at identity, helping people think in terms of Christian identity in their whole being: work, volunteer life, family, health, creativity, and so on.

In the autumn we celebrated three anniversaries: thirty years of the Memorial Garden, twenty years of ministry with Denise, and sixty years in the sanctuary. During Advent we engaged a spiritual practice of hope with the placing of stars on a tree at the beginning of Sunday worship. At Solstice Darlene Pranke, Gail Olmstead, Earl Reaburn and I led a service in the style of Taizé. The set of eight Affirm banners was completed at Christmas: Worship and Affirm representatives led a dedication for each banner as it arrived at the beginning of each particular season. Margie Davidson and Kim Caskey are the artists.

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care is a privilege. We have newcomers from other churches, new LGBTQ+ people, and newcomers with no Christian background. I have been visiting in hospitals and retirement homes,

workplaces and coffee shops, homes and here in my study. Conversations happen through Facebook, text, Messenger, email and the telephone. Individuals and families come to me to make funeral plans. I respond to baptism inquiries for both older adults and parents on behalf of their children. I prepared particularized material for congregational members who were preparing memorial services out of province. I conducted one baptism, celebrated four marriages, and officiated at seven memorial services and funerals.

Some of the pastoral issues are memory-related disease, gender and sexuality, assisted dying, belonging, retiring, aging, illness, sanity, new medical realities, adoptions, recovery, vocational questions, a considerable amount of grief counseling, and God: who might God be, and do we believe there is a God. Pastoral care includes spiritual care as well as guidance toward other resources. I write letters to our homebound members, and send many cards. I write reference letters. I pray a lot.

At South Terrace Continuing Care our small group offers worship first and third Thursdays; Dale Wilkie and I share the leadership; Eva Penzes-Wright, Hugh Stacey, Henry Johns, and Louis Lynn bring the music to life; Sheryl Lynn, Jean Lawson, and Carolyn Nielsen help the residents with pages and care.

Our Ministers' Benevolent Fund provides damage deposits and grocery relief for people facing rough times: we had a lovely note of thank you from a gentleman who sent us photos of his bachelor apartment, his home after a long time of uncertainty. The Benevolent Fund is supported principally by the St. Paul's Foundation; congregational members also make contributions. We work with social workers through Bissell and other agencies and often are able to give a quilt from the St. Paul's Quilters.

Congregational Life and Adult Study Opportunities

I'm not simply recruiting for you for a board position when I tell you what a joy it is to go to Board meetings. I invariably come away in the quiet dark of the night, refreshed, and with a sense that this church makes a tremendous positive difference. You elect leaders who care about ecology, communities, personal growth, connections, and providing the infrastructure for a spiritual home to support all of that. Making the church run smoothly is part of it, simply because a smoothly running church brings life and affirmations into the wider community. Jim Smythe and Coleen Falk have led the Board and Executive with thoughtfulness, the committee and team leads bring passion, and the members of leadership groups keep us active, reflective, and growing in faith.

Much of my pastoral visiting this year has been with newcomers, learning their stories and spiritual quests, and inviting them to consider how they may bring those stories and quests into our identity as a congregation and neighbours in faith.

At the Board we discussed and voted on the first four of the five remits before the denomination. A remit is the way The United Church of Canada makes decisions about denominational-changing proposals when each pastoral charge or Presbytery is directly involved. They come to us from the most recent meeting of our General Council. There are five remits for consideration by Official Boards, and three further (#5,7, and 8) for Presbyteries. We are concerned with:

Remit 1: Three Council Model

Remit 2: Elimination of Transfer and Settlement
Remit 3: Office of Vocation
Remit 4: Funding a New Model
Remit 6: One Order of Ministry

This year the Spiritual Nurture Committee co-ordinated Day 5, and I led some of the sessions including A Spiritual Practice for Lent, Tenebrae: A Service of Shadows, Dreaming It Forward, and worship in the style of Taizé. In the spring and fall, Denise and I led two sessions of *Finding Your Way*, an opportunity for people to find their way through theology, biblical interpretation, and around St. Paul's. Nineteen people joined St. Paul's as full members.

Wider Church

Rev. James Ravenscroft, who chaired the Edmonton Presbytery New Ministries Development Team, moved to Richmond Hill United in October and I was asked to take on that responsibility. We are currently supporting St. Andrew's in a new Trust model and rebuilding project. We have three new initiatives: a loan toward the Transitional Minister position at United On Whyte, and salaries for both the Intercultural Minister in the Presbytery and the Oskapewis (which means "helper" in Cree) at the Inner City Pastoral Ministry. Clare Irwin has joined me in this Presbytery committee work.

Early in March I was invited to the university to address students in the School of Business Leadership Certificate Program about communication and leadership. Later in the spring the Board of St. Stephen's College asked me to participate in a conversation about the future of the College, and I did. Colleagues continue to ask me for mentoring in preaching and pastoral care, and I am honoured to respond.

I preached in Thunder Bay in April as Shuniah Knox United Church made a covenant with Rev. Marlene Britton-Walfall and Cambrian Presbytery. The next week I continued my interviews for the chapter on the Trinity, and with that project in mind also attended Cruxifusion in Brampton, a gathering of our more evangelical United Church ministers.

Among the ways this congregation offered support to our Fort McMurray neighbours during and after the fire was with a granddaughter of Jack and Dorothy Casey. She held a Mother's Day concert here at St. Paul's. She had planned to fly to her home church in Fort Mac for the weekend and when diverted, Joan and I made arrangements for it to happen here. First United held a potluck here one Monday evening, and our Board Chair, Coleen Falk, welcomed them.

Alberta and Northwest Conference hosted "Minister reCall", an event for ministry personnel in June. I recruited the presenters: Molly Phinney Baskette from the United Church of Christ, Phyllis Airhart, Church Historian at Emmanuel College in Toronto, and Richard Topping, Principal of Vancouver School of Theology.

Writing and Professional Development

First Metropolitan United Church in Victoria hosted Epiphany Explorations for the 13th year in January, and I attended. I particularly appreciated Megan Rohrer, a Lutheran who is doing interesting work on the Bible and trans identities, Douglas Todd of the Vancouver *Sun* who spoke about the

markers of liberal Christianity, Tom Axworthy who gave a remarkable presentation on the MacKenzie River Basin, Anna Carter-Florence who talked about biblical verbs, and Jennifer Henry of Kairos. I was able to conduct some interviews for my writing on the Trinity is well.

In the late spring I attended the Canadian Theological Society at the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences. I heard lectures by Derek Simon on “Don’t Frack with Our Water: Conflicting or Converging Narratives in Traditionalist and Christian Opposition”, Mary Jo Leddy on Refugees, Michael Ruse, “Darwinism as Secular Religion”, Don Schweitzer, “Justification by Grace and Cultural/Religious Pluralism”, and Carol Penner, “The Good of the City: Church People Working Together in Edmonton”. The authors of the United Church theology book then gathered for two days to examine one another’s progress.

I read daily. When you are talking with a young person about ministry, tell them you get to read: theology, prayers, history, biblical commentaries, science, sermons, ethics, poetry, fiction. Come peek at my reading nook sometime. I am happy to lend books, and I leave copies of the *Christian Century* in the magazine kiosk for you to peruse.

In the summer I prepared a foreword to *What Does the Bible Say? A Critical Conversation with Popular Culture in a Biblically Illiterate World* by Mary Ann Beavis and HyeRan Kim-Cragg. In the autumn I wrote “Showing Up: The Essential Practice of Pastoral Care” for *Touchstone Journal*. *Preaching the Big Questions* continues to sell. It’s been a satisfaction to wind up the chapter on the Trinity for the United Church of Canada textbook.

Putting It All Together

Thank you for reading this report. It is a joy to work with you and among you. You make the world a better place, and together we get to enjoy some of the beauty and wonder and action before us in God’s world. Thank you too for sticky buns, loaves, cards, cups of coffee, appreciative comments, and other encouragements.

I am grateful for the colleagues you have called here: Joan who can hold fifteen conversations at once and make us all know we matter and still get the bulletin out; Susan who laughs and leads us to deep spirituality in the songs she chooses; Tyson who can play an accordion, sing a tenor line and compose a biblically-based anthem at the same time; Denise who nurtures faith development with imagination and over meals; Rondy to whom children are drawn like the mother hen of which Jesus speaks. Dija merrily greets me when I’m here late at night, and ensures that my study is a fresh place for me to welcome you with a pot of tea and a prayer.

When I think you would be well suited to a task, or that you would enjoy a challenge, most of the time you answer “yes”. Thank you. You bring hope, joy, and diligence to our politics, arts, education, health, and business – and to our neighbours. It is a pleasure to minister among you.

Many blessings!

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Dr. Catherine Faith MacLean

Denise Davis Taylor, Diaconal Minister

Minister of Faith Formation

This was a bit of an unusual year as I did more of some aspects of ministry and less of others. What was different? As is the case in the life of a congregation we must say goodbye to friends who have died. Once again this year I conducted funerals for three people (two by way of connections through *Faith Lift*). AND we welcome new families and babies born among us. I was involved with three baptisms of children involved in the congregation Arlene Nicholiachuk daughter of Gordon and Heather, Keir Patterson son of Krista Piebiak Patterson and Jeffrey Patterson, and in early January 2017 Declan Charlton son of Kayleigh Cline and Tyler Charlton.

We had a large number of people wishing to transfer to St. Paul's this year as a result of amalgamation of four local congregations in the city to become United on Whyte. Knox Metropolitan, Ritchie, Avonmore, and Pleasantview United Churches. As a result Catherine and I co-led two sets of membership classes called "Finding Your Way" (spring and fall) for people seeking to transfer to St. Paul's and others considering membership. I also led weekly Sunday worship seven times at St. Paul's in 2017 (May, July, October, November, December). The Christmas Eve early service highlighted some of the youngest children in the congregation as characters in the re-telling of the Christmas stories.

The goal of having youth develop their leadership skills through helping to lead worship continued throughout 2016. We have 5 -6 youth and several post secondary students in the congregation who read scripture regularly along with some adults. Other youth have played bells as a call to prayer through the fall and at Epiphany 2017 a small group played a bell arrangement of *Infant Holy* for the baptism of Declan Charlton. We continue to identify and train more youth to operate the sound board for Sunday worship as well as funerals and weddings. So far we have Ryan Dumont Hyslop and his mother Desiree in addition to our very capable Daniel Greenways, Luke Porter and Luc Tessier.

Youth , Children and Family Ministry and Adult Education

I stay in touch bi-weekly with a number of youth active at St. Paul's via email and text messaging. I work towards visiting with youth one to one regularly especially those who are not active in youth group or Sunday discussion.

Youth group had an average attendance January through June of about twelve youth. This fall the attendance of youth group stayed the same as we experimented with having youth group on Saturday evenings and people must choose between youth group and other commitments. Sunday discussion saw the biggest change in attendance from spring to fall: seven a Sunday to 3 a Sunday.

Throughout the year the youth group has continued to do service, social and spiritually focussed activities. Many thanks to Sandra Webber, volunteer leader, for her generous gift of time and care for our youth. This past year we joined with the Jr. Youth Club (grades 4 -6) several times for activities. Service activities included; making and delivering Christmas goodies to some people who are caring for family members in the congregation, the ever popular BBQs June and September and two pancake lunches spring and fall. Social activities included a Couch Rally to local spiritual places of different faiths (see the photos in the hall of the church) and other outdoor events bike ride, outdoor

sardines. Spiritual events included the Easter Vigil and Way of the Cross walk in April and the Youth Retreat in May.

One of St. Paul's youth attended the Edmonton region youth retreat May 8-10 in St. Albert. The theme was "I will wait for you". I organised this retreat with other local leaders. This was the conclusion to the years Presbytery wide gatherings . Foci of this events included wall climbing and a scavenger hunt at the University of Alberta and a Bible themed cake decorating in January. I did not have the energy to bring people together to organize these events in the fall.

In Sunday **Youth Discussion** in January February and March we explored themes from the books "The Heart of Christianity" by Marcus Borg outlining the different approaches people have to faith, the Bible and church. While I was on study leave as chaplain at the Center for Christian Studies Social Ministry circle in April Daniel Greenways and Sandra Webber facilitated conversations between the youth and members of the congregation as they shared how they live their faith with the youth. Throughout the fall we have been looking in depth at the Bible in a course I developed called Bible 101. We also follow along with the theme for this year Dreaming it Forward in our discussions of how to use the Bible as a resource and learning spiritual practices.

Monthly **Family Dinners** had to be cancelled twice this year due to low registration but on the whole they are enthusiastically attended and continue to build community among families. They concluded with a BBQ in May. In the fall we picked up on the themes of community building relationships between children and adults. The cookie machine was a huge success as was the Christmas carol charades. Booking the dates to avoid school holidays meant that only one dinner had to be cancelled in the fall.

Church in the Woods day camp happened July 4 - 8, 2016 for children 3 to 12 years of age. The theme was, "Be Still and Know that I am God". We included two day trips, one to Beaverhill Bird Observatory and a canoe trip downriver with Haskin Canoes. They were highlights of the week for many of the children. Seventeen children attended this camp and Rony and I were joined by parent volunteers and Rebecca Wensel from the neighbourhood.

Day 5 (Adult Education) I helped the Spiritual Nurture Committee this year recruiting discussion leaders throughout the year including Muslims from the community to talk about Islam, facilitating several sessions on Listening to our inner wisdom and Bible studies. **The Spiritual Nurture Committee** spent the fall 2015 and spring 2016 evaluating the Children and youth programs. The report was presented to the board in January 2017.

I also gave support to the very active and energetic **Social Justice** committee as they supported Rainbow Refugees Daniel Barasa who arrived in February and Ron Ssekyanzi. In the fall they helped Ugandan refugee Adebayo Katiiti apply for refugee status. This among commitments to TRC followup and Affirm activities, has made them a very busy group of people.

This was yet another full and rich year in ministry with all of you in Christ's body at St. Paul's,

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Davis Taylor, Diaconal Minister

Faith Lift Campus Ministry

Program and Activities

The programs for 2015-16 concluded early in April; weekly Dinner with Friends, spending time at The Landing drop in center on campus (for LGBTQ+ people and allies). Some of the drop in center people began to attend weekly dinners . They enriched our meals greatly with their presence. Students in the group worked hard to promote the group in the fall resulting in 20 people sitting down to dinner weekly for most of the fall. In previous years we had about eight students attend Dinner with Friends weekly. Not the same people attended every week but there was a core group of about twelve to fifteen students including a few who work on campus.)

Several other chaplains and friends from the Edmonton Interfaith Center and I organized three Interfaith Dialogues January through March. We continued with dialogues between 2 individuals from different traditions, Cree and Presbyterian, Baptist and United C.C . Ishmaili and Unitarian followed by discussion with attendees. Small attendance but engaging conversations.

My presence in the Landing precipitated a request from the Landing to co-facilitate a Queerness and Faith group that began in September. The first day twelve people showed up! By November the group decided to meet weekly rather than bi-weekly. This group discussed healing from rejection and persecution from religious communities, being allies in faith communities, understandings of love in different religious traditions, interpretation of biblical and Koranic texts on same sex intercourse, the treatment of people who are minority gender and orientation in faith communities. I also assisted a nursing student as she created a strategy for raising the question of how her very theologically conservative congregation could support LGBT people. She also spoke individually with a few students about how religious people and theology had been used to demean and harm them.

I participated in the chaplains interfaith panel at International week on campus. The topic was "Community responses to refugees in Canada". I also participated in the U of A Pride parade and the Lenten Pancakes events on campus. Wandering around campus in the nice weather with my dogs incited conversations with many students who told her about beloved animals left behind and taking time to enjoy cuddles with Russell and Kera.

Through the spring and summer time was spent visiting students on campus. This summer I also officiated at the wedding of a graduate of U of Alberta Kylie Fedchuk and her fiancé Josh Marshall. I also conducted funerals for family members of two other U of A grads I have pastoral connections with through *Faith Lift*.

In May the fire in Fort McMurray which ended up evacuating the city for nearly three months called me to the front lines as U of A provided emergency housing, health care, supplies and services to evacuees who found their way to Lister Hall (one of the campus residences). For two weeks I coordinated a chaplain presence in Lister Hall to support evacuees and worked with the Emergency Response team on campus. There were enough volunteers to fill shifts fairly quickly from a number of different denominations including hospital chaplains from the area. This was a rich time listening to people's experience of escaping the fire and all of the issues they had to deal with as they awaited their return home.

Leadership Development

I facilitated the learning of Tani Baskett, a theology student studying for Diaconal ministry at the Center for Christian Studies. Her placement was to begin to organize a pilgrimage for young adults in Alberta to Guatemala August 2017. This was later postponed a year so that it would not overlap with the national youth and young adult event Rendevous August 2017.

Grant MacEwan student Emily Olsen worked this year to increase the online presence of *Faith Lift* through a new website, twitter and Facebook posts and maintaining contact with donors and alumni.

Faith Lift Campus Ministry Fund Development

In March the Advisory team gathered to review and create a specific Fund Development plan to address the \$10,000 short fall of expected income based on our 2015 receipts. The 2015 shortfall was covered by the reserve fund.

The Development plan:

1. To contact donors in September, early October:
 - a) to inform them of the fact that we needed \$16,000 to meet our budget for 2016.
 - b) to survey them as to how they wish to be connected to *Faith Lift* moving forward
 - c) encouraging donors not already on PAR to consider donating through PAR.
2. Throughout the year we continued to send out monthly *Faith Lift* Footnotes to donors, local congregations and donor presbyteries and groups where possible.
3. Alumni we have contacts for were encouraged to begin donating to *Faith Lift* and begin a practice of charitable givings.
4. Presentations about *Faith Lift* were made to Northern Lights, Yellowhead, Coronation and Edmonton Presbyteries asking for funding by Denise. St. Paul Presbytery did not respond to our request.
5. People of St. Paul's were asked to attend a *Faith Lift* Sunday lunch that was hosted by the Social Justice committee. At that time people were encouraged to join the sixteen other people who personally support *Faith Lift* as well as the congregation.
6. The two grant applications in September: Mission and Service and Spruce Grove Thrift shop.

The Plan was put into action in May June and July of this year with a major push in the fall. This Fund Development plan was very succesful, ultimately. When all of the promised donations and grants were received by January 2017 (\$9,000 that month alone) *Faith Lift* had been able to add to the reserve fund rather than draw from it.

Continuing Education

For three weeks in April I volunteered as chaplain at the Social Ministry Learning circle at the Center for Christian Studies in Winnipeg. Doing all of the readings and participating in the group discussions made for a very rich learning time in class and excellent preparation for the fall Queerness and Faith

group. Evenings became times to reconnect with long time diaconal colleagues and learn about the work they are doing in Winnipeg.

In November, during reading break on campus I took a week to try to catch up on reading for both youth and campus ministry.

Faith Lift has been able to be strong because of the many ways that the community of St. Paul's United supports it. When you count up thank you notes sent out to donors by finance people, administrative support by Joan Townend, careful attention to finances by the treasurer, the support of the advisory committee Nancy Kerr (Knox Metropolitan) Stuart and Lesli Olson, the oversight of Ministry and Personnel, the volunteer coordinator Gerri Young and the 25 people who host Dinner with Friends there are thirty people at St. Paul's who participate in this ministry.

In addition there are all of the Friends of *Faith Lift*, (other churches, presbyteries, UCW s and individuals) who support this ministry financially including the Mission and Service Fund and Spruce Grove Thrift Shop.

This is truly your ministry and I am privileged to be part of it,

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Davis Taylor, DM
Chaplain

Rondy Kyle, Children's Programme Coordinator

Sunday mornings, you might see me rushing about before church, and likely not at all after church. I spend most of my morning upstairs, doing Godly Play with the children. We go longer than worship, until 11:30, so often, by the time I make it back downstairs the church is often empty.

Do you wonder what our morning looks like, or what we do upstairs? This year, we changed a few things, so since September we are starting our time together with a check in and we sing some songs. By rearranging the furniture, we've created our own version of a friendship room upstairs. After we move into the Godly Place space, we light the Christ candle. We use the same words as are used for lighting the candle downstairs. Like many of you, the children know the words. We tell a story and respond to it, and end each morning together sharing a little feast. We change the light, which is our benediction as the children go out into their week.

Recently, we told the story of the Good Samaritan. When we wondered who is a neighbour, one of the children moved to another story. He brought in the wooden pieces from the World Communion story and laid them onto the Good Samaritan story. There was something deeply moving about that.... Seeing the painted wooden figures of people from all around the world, of different ages and countries and genders, laid out next to each other as a response to my question of who is your neighbour. Godly play is like that... little moments of profound meaning and times of coming close to God in the midst of a busy morning with the children.

One of our intentions is to build a community, a place where we can be neighbours and friends to one another. While many of the families and children have known each other for many years, we continue to welcome new families each year. Along with Sunday mornings and the time upstairs in Godly Play, we welcome families using the nursery, attending our monthly dinners or after church picnics, and also have a group for tweens in grades 4-6.

We gathered to share food, explore ways to be in intentional community and talk about issues relating to our faith and how we live our beliefs at the various family meals throughout the year. Often, it's been a monthly intergenerational taco (Tuesday but on a) Friday meal, which usually has between 25-50 people. We also met in May for an end of the year BBQ at Hawreluk Park, and in June for a picnic with the nursery families.

Junior youth for the grades 4-6 children meets once or twice a month and is an opportunity for the children to gather, get to know each other outside of Sunday morning, and to have fun and explore various topics, faith and otherwise in a safe place. Friends are always welcome. We have also met with the grade 7-12's for some of the bigger activities, like laser tag.

During the summer, Denise and I worked together for a week of day camp at Hawreluk park at our Church in the Woods. It was a great week of experiencing God in the natural world, being still and in the moment (explored through books by Byrd Baylor), and having some grand adventures. Denise has written more about this in her report.

Thank you to everyone who contributes their time and commitment to our children's program. We had volunteers in the nursery, in Godly Play, at Church in the Woods, driving for junior youth events, helping with clean up at dinners, and stepping in when it was needed. One of the true joys of being on staff at St. Paul's is the privilege of working with all of the families who make up our church, and feeling very supported from the entire congregation in the ministry I do.

Blessings,
Rondy Kyle

Susan Farrell, Music Director

The Music Between the Notes

First of all, thank you to everyone who has been involved in the musical happenings at St. Paul's United Church during this past calendar year. It is remarkable to me, as I write this report, the sheer number of individuals that we were fortunate enough to hear from this year – this congregation is busting at the seams with talent and generosity, and our services reflect this!

In early 2016, we continued our 'Bridging the Gap' theme by celebrating the season of light with choir anthems such as *Hamba Nathi*, *The Lord is My Light*, a *Mozart Canon*, and Kim Denis' *Irish Blessing*. Our children's blessing for this time was *When You Walk from Here*, a reminder to everyone that we walk with justice and mercy in God's humble care. In February, we welcomed the first of our gorgeous new Affirm banners with the hymn *Draw the Circle Wide*, which depicts the inclusiveness of the artwork well.

We entered the Lenten season *On Eagle's Wings* with the hymn of the same name. For this introspective time of year, we introduced a spiritual practice by singing the words "Be still, my soul, for God is on your side" or "Be still and know that I am God." This was followed by a Lenten call to prayer, for which we sang *Listen, God is Calling*.

For the Easter season, we began with our own Tyson Kerr's arrangement of *Don't Be Afraid* and continued on Maundy Thursday with a service lead by the introspective music of Anne Marie and Hugh Stacey (voice and piano, respectively). A memorable piece from this service which was repeated on Good Friday was *O douleureux visage* from Bach's Passion Chorale. Then, from Good Friday to Easter Sunday we went from *Oh Lord what a Mournin'* to *Woke Up This Mornin'* (with my mind set on freedom) as we celebrated the joy of Christ's resurrection.

In the Spring, the choir sang the anthem *Church Without Walls* during a service lead by the Mission and Service team. Our children's blessing at this time was *May God's Sheltering Wings*, which got us moving with the actions the kids made up! We also heard from Lynn Sutankayo who offered a beautiful cantor line to the Taizé piece *Veni Sancte Spiritu*. Special guest Justin Stickel joined us as soloist for a South African piece, *Our Father*.

Joy Spring Jazz Choir joined us this Spring for a service, their final service with us, as they have now moved. We have enjoyed having them rehearse in our space on Wednesday evenings and will miss their beautiful sounds.

On May 29, the choir hosted a *Spring into Song* event which went over well! Our numbers were bolstered by members of the Edmonton Youth Choir, who were singing to thank us for the use of our space over the years. During this service, we spoke of ways to help the Canadian Foodgrains Bank and sang music by Ron Klusmeier, who developed the *Spring into Song* program for churches to undertake.

The Fall brought us the theme of "Dreaming it Forward", and so we sang it forward as well! We celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Memorial Garden with cello music outdoors in the garden followed by an a cappella version of Psalm 23. Throughout the season, we had excerpts from *Joseph and the Technicolour Dreamcoat* to coincide with our Joseph scripture readings. Lynn Sutankayo also presented *I Dreamed a Dream* from *Les Miserables* to further satisfy the thirst for musical theatre and more importantly to expand on our dream theme. On Thanksgiving, we welcomed special guests the Atlantic Vocal Ensemble from St. John's, NL, who were here as part of a government-funded exchange program called Experiences Canada. We were also gifted a beautiful song written by Adebayo Katiiti, our new Ugandan friend who is seeking a better life here in Canada.

During Advent and Christmas, we were treated to the flute stylings of Darren Nichols, lovely cello music by Colin Ryan, bass by Steven Falk, and the voices of Aaron MacKenzie and Shannon Kerr. The choir lead a memorable lessons and carols service.

"Words make you think. Music makes you feel. A song makes you feel a thought."

- Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra

Here's to another year of singing together!

Yours in Song,
Susan Farrell, Music Director

Committee and Team Reports

Worship Committee

The worship committee, consisting of Darlene Pranke, Karin Stewart, Hugh Stacey and Amy Kaler from the congregation and Catherine MacLean and Susan Farrell from the staff, continued to explore new ways of making Sunday worship relevant and provocative, as well as building on the strengths identified by congregation members. The themes for 2016 were “Mind the Gap” and “Dreaming it Forward”, focusing on the story of Joseph.

At the beginning of 2016, we embarked on a process of discerning the quality of congregants’ worship experience, as mandated in the St. Paul’s strategic plan. We provided slips of paper with questions for three Sundays in January which people could answer and place in a basket at the back of the sanctuary, and we also sponsored a Day 5 session on the topic of worship itself. The results from these activities helped us to see that the music, the intellectual stimulation of the sermons, the opportunities for quiet reflection, and the sense of being amongst a community of friends stood out in people’s worship experiences. We attempted to build on these elements throughout the rest of the year, through such means as introducing periods of silent prayer into the service, encouraging the participation of youth as scripture readers, and sustaining the candle-lighting ceremony which opens Sunday morning services.

We also happily received the eight banners that now hang from the balcony at the back of the church, which the worship committee commissioned in 2015. One banner arrived for each season of the liturgical year, and each was welcomed separately on Sunday mornings. The banners serve as a permanent manifestation of our Affirming commitment as well as an aesthetic enhancement of the sanctuary, accompanying the large painting at the front and the stained glass windows. We were very glad to see the enthusiasm with which congregants greeted these new arrivals.

During the summer, St. Paul’s did not partner with United on Whyte, which incorporated Knox-Met, our usual summer partner, as United on Whyte needed to consolidate their own worship community. While clergy and musical staff were away this summer, Mark Chiang, Larry Derkach, David Oberholzer and Paul Richey filled in. We are open to the possibility of partnering with United on Whyte in future summers, but are not planning on it for summer 2017.

In the fall, we marked the 60th anniversary of the dedication of the sanctuary with special mentions in the Sunday morning service. Hugh Stacey gathered memories and wisdom of senior members of the congregation for inclusion in the church bulletin. We also celebrated both Christmas Day and New Year’s Day with Sunday services, and were pleased to see how many people turned out for both. The worship committee also dealt with more mundane matters such as the length of “minute messages” and the appropriate use of the new projection technology at the back of the church. From the profound to the ordinary, we did our best to contribute to the collective spiritual life of the church.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Kaler, Chair

Ministry and Personnel Committee

As we sit in our pews Sunday morning, it is easy to get swept up with the thought provoking sermon and soothed by the beautiful music. While this is an essential part of St. Paul's, there is so much more that goes on each week to ensure that the diverse needs of our church community are addressed. For example,

Catherine also provides pastoral care; Denise engages with our youth and young families in ways suitable to their busy lives; while each week, Rondy engages our youngest members and their families in Godly Play. In conjunction with the ministerial staff, Susan and Tyson explore a range of musical contributions that enhance our weekly services. Meanwhile in the office Joan efficiently and pleasantly makes sure every message is passed on, appointments are made, orders of services are prepared, while in the evenings Dija ensures that our church is clean and well maintained.

Throughout the past several months our Board has been reviewing our Constitution. It seems timely to reflect on the role of the M&P Committee and how we carry out our mandate.

The Ministry and Personnel Committee shall provide a confidential setting for consultation with, and support and assessment of all St. Paul's United Church Staff.

Within our committee each member serves as a liaison person for one of our St. Paul's staff. Through ongoing regular contact, staff are invited to share and discuss concerns, dreams, opportunities for continuing education, and receive feedback, support and encouragement. Catherine's liaison is Dave McNabb; Denise's is Kiran Cahoon; Rondy's is Robin Woodruff; Susan and Tyson's liaison is Gweth Purdy; and Joan and Dija are with Lorene Turner.

While you are welcome to speak directly with any of St. Paul's staff, if you wish to draw attention to something that especially moved you, or a concern you have, we invite you to speak to someone on our committee.

With two new members on our committee this year, it seemed like a good opportunity for us to invite each staff to come and speak to us about the many roles each of them carry out.

In January, Rondy provided us with a very enthusiastic up date on some of the highlights of her work with the young people of our church and their families. As well as the weekly Godly Play on Sunday morning, she's also involved with Denise in hosting monthly Family Dinners and planning and executing the Summer Camp "Church in the Woods".

In June, Denise joined us and clarified how, as a Diaconal Minister, her training focused on "*working with small groups, and her calling is more of an educational ministry. It is focused on the Mission of the church and includes an awareness of and commitment to people at the margins of society*". She really enjoys the diversity of her responsibilities and especially enjoys working with teenagers and encouraging them to be actively engaged in the work of the church. *It is important for us to remember that Denise is half time with St. Paul's and half time with Faith Lift on the University of Alberta Campus.*

When Catherine spoke with us in November, we learned more about the range of responsibilities she has as St. Paul's Senior Minister. In addition to coordinating the overall planning of the Sunday Services, through visits, letters and phone calls she plays an important role in keeping connected with members of St. Paul's who are unable to be in church due to illness or have moved to new accommodations. As well as being involved with the St. Paul's Board and many of its committees, she is active in broader Presbytery committees, and still finds time to read and write.

Through these meetings we all came to appreciate the complexity of their roles and the magnitude of their service to our faith community.

Last year The Board asked us to develop guidelines for a Working Alone Policy to ensure that staff and others using the church after regular office hours would be safe. Dean Olmstead drew from many sources to draft a comprehensive policy that was approved by the board in April.

While many United Church ministers devote a lifetime serving charges across the country, we felt because Denise had been connected with St. Paul's in a leadership position for twenty years, it would be fitting to recognize her contributions to the families and young people in our church. A celebratory service was held in November.

As St. Paul's continues to evolve with our needs and expectations changing, we are currently revisiting staff job descriptions to ensure that they still accurately reflect current needs and expectations.

Members of the M & P Committee are Kiran Cahoon, Dave McNabb, Dean Olmstead, Gweth Purdy, Lorene Turner and Robin Woodruff. Last year one of our long time members moved to BC so we are looking for someone to bring a new perspective to our group.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lorene Turner, Chair

Membership and Congregational Care Committee

The Membership and Congregational Care Committee members focused throughout the year on seeking out new members and making them feel welcome to St. Paul's. We attempt to make them feel welcome and to answer any questions they might have. The goal of our committee is to build relationships through warmth, friendliness and acceptance.

We had our annual Gilchrist Tea on June 12 where we had several new members attend as well as offer volunteer support. The tea also raised \$1477 for the Angola Memorial Scholarship Fund. There is still strong support for this formal tea where the monies collected support a number of scholarships in Angola, as well as honour new members to St. Paul's. This supports the intergenerational profile of St. Paul's.

Photo directory was completed. Individual photos ready before December 2016 and the finished directory by end of February. A huge thank you to all those who made this project a success. The directory is a very important part of St. Paul's and we had several new members have their photos added.

We handed out 36 prayer shawls to members joining the church, transfer of membership and funeral services. We had tables set up for the month of December with name tags and encouraged everyone to fill one out, whether a new member or a regular to St. Paul's.

Respectfully submitted
Shannon Lynn, Chair

Stewardship Committee

Stewardship is about : 1) ensuring St. Paul's has the necessary volunteers (today and into the future) to govern and to help staff deliver our programs and services; 2) informing and encouraging the congregation to support the mission of the wider church – e.g. through the Mission and Service (M&S) Fund of the United Church; and 3) informing the congregation about the longer-run financial needs of St. Paul's, cultivating a sense of responsibility to meet those needs, and offering a model for how those needs can be met.

In 2016 the Stewardship Committee was very shorthanded and had no Chair. Those interested in Stewardship are encouraged to contact staff or the Board to express an interest to help out. With more hands on deck, more could be accomplished!

The focus of Stewardship in 2016 was on financial stewardship. For the first time in at least 10 years a Stewardship Campaign was mounted that focused on regular, ongoing givings.

The Campaign Goals were:

1. To raise \$440,000 in givings from the congregation in 2017.
2. To increase by 10 the number of households using PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance) to give.
3. To have 170 households on PAR or to have submitted a pledge for givings in 2017.

The first goal was set at the level deemed necessary to ensure the long-term viability and vitality of St. Paul's, as it is currently organized. Funds would be sufficient to maintain the property at a high standard indefinitely; and to enable the donation of a substantial amount (approx. 10%) of operating funds to the M&S Fund of the United Church – two areas that are under substantial stress right now because of low revenues.

The second and third goals were set to improve the reliability of the cash flow stream and members' awareness of and responsiveness to the financial needs of St. Paul's.

Members and adherents were made aware of the campaign and its goals through messages from the Sunday pulpit and through email- and mail-outs. The approach was twofold: inspiration and information. Three coffee chats and one Day 5 session were organized for folks to get more in-depth information about financial stewardship generally and the details behind our campaign specifically. A model for giving was presented to the congregation to help indicate what a sustainable level of giving could look like: 3% for St. Paul's: Simple, Fair, Sustainable. This suggested households give 3% of their income to St. Paul's, with several modifications applicable depending on household configuration, health, and volunteer effort. A top-up was suggested for very high net worth households.

The campaign had mixed success. On a positive note, the congregation generally is now more aware of financial stewardship and the specific needs of St. Paul's. The feedback received about the campaign was almost universally positive. As for the specific goals of the campaign:

Goal 1: As of this writing congregational givings for 2017 are forecast to be \$330,000, far short of our medium-run needs. This apparent disappointment needs to be tempered by the following notes: a) At this same time last year annual givings were forecast to be \$317,000, a sharp drop from the year prior – so we have arrested the slide and made a positive pivot (during a period of economic weakness in Alberta); b) While not unattainable, the goal of \$440K was very aggressive – a call for a 40% increase. The size of the change needed was likely too challenging for many. The hope is by continuing to reinforce the principles of financial stewardship and to demonstrate the relevance and importance of St. Paul's that over time financial commitment to St. Paul's will continue to broaden and deepen. c) While the current forecast falls short of our needs in the medium-run, we are not in distress in the short-run. This means over the next few years we have time to continue to thoughtfully address financial commitment.

Goal 2: We increased our PAR donors by 7, a bit short of the goal for 10; and

Goal 3: 114 households are on PAR or have submitted a pledge. We have 88 households who are neither on PAR or pledge, but who nonetheless give somewhat consistently (some more so, some less so). It remains a Stewardship priority to demonstrate the relevance and importance of St. Paul's, and the importance for us to have a broad base of reliable donations from all our members and adherents.

Respectfully Submitted
Jim Smythe
Stewardship Committee member

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee members for 2016 were Treasurer Roy Townend, Linda Breitreitz, Heather Peden, Kyle Townend and John Kuzyk. During the year we assisted the Treasurer in keeping all the committees informed and up to date regarding their financial progress in comparison to their budgets. We met with members of the Stewardship and Social Justice committees to discuss the balance between our Operation and Outreach commitments.

We also met with Denise David-Taylor to assist with budgeting concerns for *Faith Lift*.

St. Paul's faced a deficit budget for 2016, and we also experienced a loss of rental income.

We were delighted when Don and Barbara Gardner proposed an individual project - a Budget Balancing Brunch campaign which raised over \$15,000 in donations. This effort, along with the cooperation of all St. Paul's committees to limit expenses where possible and strong Stewardship messages in the fall, put our year end in a very positive position.

The Finance committee will be presenting our Budget for 2017 at the Annual Congregation Meeting, including information about Operation costs and the ongoing and extensive Outreach commitments of St. Paul's Church.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marian Carmichael, Chair

Landscape & Visual Identity Committee

(formerly The Beautification Committee)

This year as we met with City Officials, submitted proposals and made contact with various companies, we felt it would be useful to have a name that more clearly represented the entire purpose of the committee as outlined in our terms of reference. While 'beautification' remains an integral part of our vision, we also hope that through thoughtful landscaping, signage, areas for a variety of activities such as sitting, reflecting and visiting, we can provide a unified, contemporary appearance to the exterior of St. Paul's that portrays our faith beliefs in a way consistent with the interior and is a welcoming beacon to our members and to those in the surrounding community.

After meeting with many sign companies we finally found a relatively new design company that was eager to work with us to create a sign that would reflect our unique mission within the Belgravia community. Early in the year we worked with them to develop four possible signs that were shared with our congregation. We appreciated the enthusiasm and input. In order to honour your many suggestions, we worked with The Shade Design Company to incorporate favored aspects of each plan into a composite one that we believe will be aesthetically pleasing, structurally sound and reflect who we are as a spiritual community.

In February we met with councilor Ben Henderson and City of Edmonton officials, as well as representatives of Belgravia Community League to discuss our plans and explore how the “neighborhood renewal” would affect our property, especially as to how drainage issues in the area could be addressed. While the city managers assured us they would be looking at street and sidewalk levels and how to best ensure adequate drainage, they recommended we wait to do major landscaping plans until they had firm plans on what they would be doing along 76 Avenue.

It seemed advisable to focus on areas clearly within our property and leave the landscaping plans on the South side of the church on hold for the time being.

After working with a local landscape designer to visually articulate plans for suitable plantings along the front of the church, we organized a planting bee with the assistance of St. Paul’s Youth Group. We greatly appreciated their enthusiasm and look forward to involving them as we move forward with our landscaping plans.

Our main focus over the summer was working out the details for the erection of the new sign. Although we were aware we would have to apply for a variance to accommodate the height of the centre portion of the sign, it was only upon submitting our application for a building permit that we discovered ‘height’ is the one aspect of signs that cannot be approved by the City of Edmonton Development Office. The only way to gain approval was to submit our plan, have it rejected and then appeal to the SDAB (Subdivision and Development Appeal Board). In the fall we began the process of collecting support for our sign. Brochures were developed and distributed throughout the Belgravia community, a wooden mock up of the sign as it would actually be was constructed by some committed volunteers, contact was made with all the residences and apartments close to the church, and meetings were held with Belgravia Community League.

We wish to thank the commitment and support of the many people of St. Paul’s who assisted us in so many ways. The support and encouragement throughout the past few months have been greatly appreciated. The letter of support from the Belgravia Community League spoke of the many ways St. Paul’s has been an integral part of the community over the past sixty years and trust will continue to be in the future.

Our appeal hearing was on January 12, 2017, and we have now received official approval for a height variance from the Subdivision and Development Board. However, it will spring before we will be able to proceed with erecting our new sign.

Hugh Stacey, Toscha Turner, and Denise Davis Taylor continue to be actively involved members with Dawn MacDonald replacing Dave McNabb as our liason person with the property committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Lorene Turner, Chair

Property Committee

Updating Status of ongoing Capital projects:

1. **Heating & Ducting & Chimney**- we are having difficulty finding a supplier willing to take on this complicated and challenging project. McKinley Heating Service Experts did a site inspection early in 2016 but didn't seem be willing to pursue this opportunity. Our project leader will try them once again, as well as, contacting other contractors.
2. **Lift**- Our project leader hasn't heard back from the contractor who did the site inspection. Looks like renovation of the existing lift will be in the \$15k to \$20k range and a complete replacement of the lift with an elevator will cost approximately \$70k. The latter is complicated by the space requirements of an elevator versus the existing lift structure. (Note: a lift is what we currently have- as one has to press continually one the up and down button to make the lift move, whereas an elevator would have a separate button for each floor and one only presses the selected floor button once to operate the elevator).
3. **Basement renovations**- Dean Olmstead continues to head the subcommittee that includes Shona Nichols and Marianne Scott. They have had assistance from a consultant who once was a partner with Marianne Scott in a kitchen renovations company. After the initial meeting of this group in the spring of 2016, this subcommittee did not meet during the balance of 2016. However, they will start meeting once again in 2017. Dean Olmstead is to provide the Property Committee Chair with a schedule of their monthly meetings going forward.
4. **Sign**- construction re this project has been postponed until spring 2017 pending City of Edmonton approval. Dawn Macdonald will act as liaison person on behalf of the Property Committee to sit on and communicate with the Landscaping committee.

City of Edmonton's plans re roadways in Belgravia including the ones near St. Paul's have been completed. COE reps met with neighbourhood residents at St. Paul's United Church this fall to get their feedback. I sent a summary of Dave McNabb's concerns about the impact of the roadway changes to 116 Street near the church and the intersection of 116 Street and 76 Avenue to the City Planning Department. They have acknowledged that they received it. It appears that the COE will conduct a trial in 2027 on 116 Street with pylons to test the proposed street redesign.

Inspections: A stand pipe inspection was been done in 2016. This involves the obsolete standpipes and fire hoses on each floor of McAlister Hall. The fire hydrant is at the corner of 116 Street and the laneway north of the church.

A fire alarm inspection was done in 2016 and our current fire alarm system now that it includes remote monitoring meets building code standards. Note: this system is becoming obsolete due to its age and may require replacement down the road due to lack of availability of spare parts to affect future repairs per the manufacturer.

The lift inspection was completed in late 2016 and requires one follow up repair to fully meet standards. John Porter and Jack Francis will coordinate this repair.

The pianos were retuned several times during 2016.

Other:

1. **Property Committee expenditures in 2016** were **\$299 under Budget in 2016.**
2. Dawn Macdonald and her two sons were awarded the winter 2016/17 contract for **snow clearing** at St. Pauls based on the good work in clearing snow the previous year.
3. A group of Property Committee members and Lawrence Taylor replaced **the lights in the sanctuary** with more energy efficient LED lights. The sanctuary is well lit now!
4. **Lights in the basement** were replaced with LED lights as well.
5. **Our custodian** Dija continued to perform well in 2016.
6. We cleared **leaves off the flat roofs** twice in 2016- once in the spring and once in the fall.
7. **Basement windows repair**- we decided to hold off until we hear recommendations from the Basement Renovation Subcommittee. Note: We received a quote in 2015 from Sunrise Windows re replacing the existing wood framed basement windows with triple paned, vinyl framed windows. The quote was \$14,591.47.
8. **Rear church sanctuary windows** are leaking heat and will need to be repaired in the future.

We have a **new Property Committee member**, Samantha Engler, who recently volunteered to join our group. She has experience framing houses, as well as some plumbing and electrical work. Welcome to the team Samantha!

Future consideration: Succession plan for Property Committee Chair as current Chair Person is stepping down at end of current year.

Respectfully submitted,
David Carr, Chair

Spiritual Nurture Committee

Membership changes this year saw the departure of Heather Waldie after many years of service to the committee. We are all grateful for the perception and imagination she added to our discussions, and not least for the fellowship that she brought to our meetings. Jack Jervis joined us in the fall, and

graciously agreed to take over coordinating the Day 5 program in the New Year. Lee Foote, Kayleigh Cline, Paul Preston, Denise Davis Taylor and Darren Nichols remain as committee members.

Our major task for the year was the evaluation of the Christian Education programs for children (Godly Play on Sundays and family dinners on Fridays) and youth (both Sunday and Friday programs). We took a qualitative approach to this, engaging participants, parents and leaders in conversation about the programs. The final report was submitted to the Board January 17. We will carry out a similar evaluation for adult programs in 2017.

We oversaw the Children's and Youth Programs, liaising with Denise Davis Taylor and Rondy Kyle, and supporting their work. Once again, we supported "Church in the Woods", a summer day camp program led by Denise and Rondy. Recruiting people to help Rondy with Godly Play and to staff the nursery on Sunday mornings remains an ongoing challenge.

Chew & Digest sessions after worship services continued to offer people an opportunity after worship services to discuss the sermon or any topic that touched upon our spiritual experience. Attendance ranged from 1 to 5 or 6, with perhaps 20 different people taking part over the course of the year. Early in the year, we decided to run Chew & Digest as unfacilitated sessions. We thought that after a couple years of organizing and facilitating these sessions, we should see how well they would run on their own. We hoped that the regulars would continue to meet and that the format was familiar enough that it would not require active leadership on the part of our committee. After the summer break, we talked with regular participants about how and where the sessions might better occur. Since then, there have been a few ad hoc sessions. We will continue to monitor interest.

We organized Day 5 sessions (almost) every Thursday evening from January through April, and again from October until Christmas, for a total of 27 sessions. Topics included theology, spiritual practise, social justice, Bible study, LGBTQ* issues, interfaith community building. As well, there were worship services for winter solstice, Maundy Thursday, and one in the Taizé style. Attendance ranged from 3 to 18 participants (mean=11) for regular sessions, and up to 37 for the solstice service. Most attendees came to only one or two sessions; however, a handful of people are regulars attending up to 17 of the sessions during the year.

Due to renovation of the community hall this year, Belgravia Community League decided not to organize a Family Fun Day in February. In the past we have been involved in this, and will look for future opportunities to engage with the community around St. Paul's.

The committee also holds the budget for the Library and for the Observer subscription program, neither of which require us to do much, as the Library is under the expert care of Gerri Young, and Joan administers the Observer program out of the office. Thanks to them both for their excellent service to the congregation.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Stewart, Chair

Social Justice Team & Affirming Team

The Social Justice Team at St. Paul's in 2016 continued to support and expand upon many of the initiatives that have been longstanding priorities at our church. We continued to support the Garneau Food Security, *Faith Lift*, Habitat for Humanity, Racecourse School, Affirm initiatives, Truth and Reconciliation initiatives, advocating for Mission & Service funding and this year we spent a large portion of our time supporting refugees. The following events and initiatives were undertaken by Social Justice in 2016.

Early in January we brought a petition to the congregation, written by Kairos, which advocated for Alberta school curriculum to include lessons, for students K-12, on indigenous history including residential schools. The petition was successful and the Province of Alberta has mandated this curriculum change.

On January 24 Don Retson and Joscelyn Proby hosted an M & S fundraising luncheon featuring a panel of female public figures asking them 'How has faith shaped your politics?' The panel included Patricia Grell, Dawn Waring, Debbie Hubbard and Heather MacKenzie.

In February Social Justice made a successful motion at the AGM to include Mission and Service funding in the 2017 budget.

On February 10 Daniel Barasa, our second sponsored 'Rainbow Refugee', arrived in Edmonton. Ron Ssekyanzi and Daniel Barasa have been supported both financially and in every day practical help with their resettlement by a wide support group represented mostly by St. Paul's members coordinated by the Social Justice Team but also by some outside of our community. Our commitment to supporting and empowering both of these individuals was a major focus in 2016. In November Daniel Barasa moved to Vancouver to reunite with friends. Ron is currently living in Edmonton and is about to embark on apprenticing as an electrician.

On February 21st Stephanie Gardener made a presentation on Treaty 6. She explained in detail the history, intent, stakeholders and value of this agreement in an effort to initiate a discussion about why Treaty 6 should be acknowledged by our congregation and to brainstorm ways for us to do this.

On February 28th Stephanie coordinated a brief meeting to brainstorm ideas for a gender and sexuality alliance group. It was attended mostly by supporters of the LGBTQ community at St. Paul's and it gave us all the opportunity to envision the potential of this group.

On April 10th Stephanie again presented on 'The Spirit of Treaty Making'. This presentation was in an effort to respond to the TRC calls to action by offering education to our community on indigenous history. The presentation looked at the influence of the Cree language on the indigenous understanding of Treaties that were signed between the government of Canada and Canadian First Nations.

On April 24th we were fortunate to hear Ron Ssekyanzi and Daniel Barasa present their story of life in a refugee camp. It was a very meaningful moment that allowed our community to hear the stories of

these two individuals and learn more about who they are. It was also an event at which they each expressed gratitude for the support they have received from St. Paul's. Donations were directed to the St. Paul's refugee fund.

On June 4th Members of Social Justice and the greater St. Paul's community along with our Rainbow Refugees walked in Edmonton's Pride Parade. Shirley Perry coordinated our entry and we walked with other Affirming United churches in Edmonton and surrounding areas. We sang 'He's got the whole world in his hands' and other songs of affirmation while Shirley played the guitar. There were rhythmic gymnasts and a gigantic inflated globe that accompanied us on our walk. Our presence in the parade seemed to be very well received.

Social Justice was asked to plan the June 19th service as it coincided with National Aboriginal Day. A Truth and Reconciliation service was planned and we invited the Very Reverend Bill Phipps to give the sermon. We consulted with Elder Elsie Paul and another indigenous woman, Brenda Rylands, to craft a service that was hopefully meaningful and educational. Donations were taken in for the Healing Fund.

On September 25th a luncheon in support of *Faith Lift* was coordinated by Social Justice and Denise Davis Taylor along with others gave presentations about the valuable work *Faith Lift* accomplishes every day on the University of Alberta Campus.

Late in August we met a Ugandan swimmer named Adebayo Katiiti. He had come to Edmonton as a competitor in the IGLA games swimming competition but could not return home due to persecution for being transgendered. He decided to seek asylum in Canada. Social justice decided to reach out to Adebayo and support him informally on his journey. On October 18th a Fundraising evening event was planned featuring a coffee house theme with a Variety show. It happened to be on Adebayo's birthday and guests raised \$2000 to help support him through the process of applying for refugee status. Adebayo was granted refugee status in November and has become a familiar face at St. Paul's. Members of Social Justice and the St. Paul's community continue to communicate with Adebayo regularly and support him as needed. Through Adebayo and Ron Ssekyanzi we have met a number of other refugees and asylum seekers who have escaped gender or sexual orientation persecution in Uganda. Social Justice and a few St. Paul's members continue to communicate with these people and support them in as many ways as possible.

On November 5th Heather MacKenzie hosted another successful Racecourse dinner. It was well attended and raised over \$6 500 for the School. This year Heather opted to forgo the silent auction in favor of a live auction for 'symbolic items' on the school's budget. There was live entertainment and as always a delicious dinner of east African food.

On November 27th Social Justice again facilitated a Christmas '10 000 Villages sale' featuring fair trade goods. We were able to donate 10% of the total sales to Racecourse School along with raising awareness about the concept of fair trade.

Because of new Habitat for Humanity staff and volunteers, and weather, St. Paul's members were able to provide only one lunch at a Habitat build in 2016 but four lunches are planned for a new build site this coming summer.

Throughout the year, at least one Social Justice member attended meetings of the Moving Forward with Reconciliation group of Edmonton and area United Churches. Stephanie Gardener and Tammy Irwin are the designated St. Paul's Witnesses for Reconciliation for Edmonton Presbytery.

Clare Irwin continues to deliver dead batteries to the Eco Station and used eye glasses to Iris opticians where they are repaired and sent to developing countries.

We hope that these efforts have helped St. Paul's to strive towards achieving our common goal of shining God's light out into the world for those who are in greatest need to be seen and cared for.

Respectfully submitted by Heather Razaghi, Chair of Social Justice on behalf of the entire Team which includes; Tammy Irwin, Clare Irwin, Heather MacKenzie, Justin Wheler, Stephanie Gardener, Denise Davis Taylor, Gerri Young, Desiree Dumont-Hyslop, Don Retson and Terry Kaasa

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Razaghi, Chair

Garneau Strathcona Food Security (GSFS)

An outreach activity of our Social Justice Team

Volunteers: Jane Alton, Danial Barasa, Teresa Bellinger, Margot & Sydney Cooke, John Kuzyk, Jean Lawson, Beth & Ian MacKenzie, Helen & John Madill, Maureen McMillan, Heather Morris-Tipples, Carolyn Nielsen, Gweth & Don Purdy, Heather & Amelia Razaghi, Don Retson, Ronald Ssekyanzi, Terry Kaasa.

From Southminster Steinhauer United Church: Lois Evans, Judy Dube, and Trish MacKinnon.

GSFS is an outreach initiative of three United Churches, Garneau, St. Paul's and United on Whyte, working together to provide access to supplemental food resources on a weekly basis to people in Edmonton. The churches provide volunteers to run the program every weekend of the year. Garneau UC provides support on the 1st weekend of each month. Betty Marlin is the overall co-ordinator of the program and contact person for Garneau UC. Nancy Kerr is the coordinator and contact person for United on Whyte, providing volunteer support the 2nd weekend of every month. St. Paul's UC has two teams that provide volunteer support on the 3rd and 4th weekends of every month. Three volunteers from Southminster–Steinhauer UC round out our teams. This year we said a huge thank-you to Gweth and Don Purdy who retired after many years of volunteering. We also welcomed Helen and John Madill, who transferred from Knox-Met UC and joined our volunteer teams.

Partnerships continue with community retailers and the Edmonton Food Bank. We are part of the "Southside Bread Runs" and we connect within that group through a City of Edmonton Social Worker.

We are located in Garneau United Church, adjacent to the University of Alberta campus with close proximity to buses and the LRT line. We provide a wide service within the City of Edmonton as we receive referrals from the Edmonton Food Bank, the Support Network, and City of Edmonton social workers etc.

Our goals are two fold:

- to provide access to healthy, culturally appropriate food sources to augment what participants can obtain independently and
- to provide a source of social and spiritual support to the guests we serve.

GSFS outreach impacts food sovereignty by decreasing food waste through re-distribution and increasing our guest’s access to nutritious food choices. It is meant to supplement their weekly food supply. We continued to see an increase in the number of people accessing our service over the past year; the economic down turn continues and we assist numerous new immigrants now living in our city.

2016	Guests*	Adults	Children	Total People Served 2016	Total People Served 2015
Year	3329	5960	2997	8957	7938
Month	277	497	250	746	662
(Average)					
Week	64	114	58	172	153
(Average)					

*Each guest records the number of adults and children they pick up for.

New Initiative: We requested and received an inspection from Alberta Health Services (AHS) as we offer prepared food to the guests we serve on Saturday mornings. We are now designated as a “Soup Kitchen” and licensed by AHS. Three St. Paul’s UC volunteers have successfully completed the on-line Alberta Food Safety Basics course. Our food handling and food storage procedures reflect the safety standards required for serving prepared foods to the public.

Ongoing Initiatives: We continue to offer a choice of fresh and prepared foods to our guests on Saturday morning. Many of our guests partner with the church volunteers to package and organize goods for distribution. Most of our guests bring their own mugs for coffee. Thanks to the cooperation of our guests we also are able to recycle containers for use and regularly recycle egg cartons to the Edmonton Food Bank, all of which positively impacts the environment.

Our vision for GSFS is to move beyond food charity to food justice. For a third year we offered a Container Gardening Program (CGP) during the spring and summer facilitated by Ellie, one of our guests. Participating guests grew tomatoes, carrots, spinach, swiss chard, kale, green onions and a variety of lettuce for their own use and participated in 3 plantings over the spring and summer. The guests may provide their own seed or are welcome to choose from seeds donated to the program. They are supplied with containers (donated by the Ashbourne kitchen), compost (all vegetable scraps from the Food Security are composted by one of the coordinators) and soil; Ellie shares her knowledge and expertise.

We extend a huge thank-you to the people of St. Paul's who support this outreach initiative through volunteer time, donations of canned goods and directed financial support.

Please connect with any of the volunteers if you have questions or if you are interested in joining us.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the GSFS outreach,
Terry Kaasa, Coordinator

Racecourse Community School Fundraising Initiative

An outreach activity of our Social Justice Team

The Racecourse Community School was founded in 1999 by local leaders in the Racecourse Community of Kitwe, Zambia, because so many children they knew were left orphaned by AIDS and could no longer afford to attend government schools. 2016 marked St. Paul's United Church's 13th year of partnership with this school that serves over 1,700 students each year.

We once again fulfilled our commitment and transferred over \$25,000 CAD to the school in 2016. This is indeed an accomplishment. In addition to the concrete benefits of this financial contribution, predictability and reliability of funding can have a very positive impact on community development.

Here are some highlights from the year:

In Zambia

The Racecourse School has had some important changes in the past year. Emelda Esther Nyondo is the new Acting Head Teacher and long-serving staff, Harriet Kubangwa and Prisca Chipulu are currently being professionally trained as teachers.

We were saddened by the news that teacher, Donald Mwaba died in September 2016. The school has asked that we hold his family and the Racecourse School family in our prayers.

In Canada

Our combined contribution of over \$25,000 CAD once again accounted for the vast majority of the schools operating funds. We were able to sustain our financial contributions to the school with funds put towards:

- the annual financial audit of the school

- monthly allowances for 20 teachers and 3 security guards
- sponsorship of graduates to complete grades 10-12
- staff development
- maintenance and water

During 2016, we raised over \$28,500 for the Racecourse School. Funds were raised through a private family giving foundation, St. Andrew's United Church, Simon and Dawn's garden produce and canning sales, Tom and Bette's art and craft sales, the Social Justice Team's *10 Thousand Villages* sales, as well as through generous giving by friends of Racecourse school from all over Canada (many of whom have visited Racecourse in the past).

The number of St. Paul's members & adherents giving increased from 38 to 43 in 2016 and the number of PAR monthly donors continues to slowly increase which allows for greater predictability and stability in our fundraising. Thank you very much for the care and consideration that so many of you give to the children and staff at the Racecourse Community School.

With almost 100 in attendance at the Racecourse School 13th annual dinner fundraiser we raised over \$6,500. We were so fortunate to once again have many amazing volunteers cook, set up, clean up and much more. Members of Oran performed engaging Southern African music and dance. Thanks to all attendees for trying out the live auction with us for the first time. We surpassed our live auction goal and raised over \$2688 with this new technique! The attendees were very motivated to give in order to see Amelia Razaghi's stand up comedy routine.

We are very fortunate to have St. Paul's staff and volunteers manage the finances, administrative tasks, and fundraising efforts of this outreach project. By giving to the Racecourse Community School project you are ensuring that many Zambian children receive their human right to an education. The Community School Movement is one of the most inspiring examples of people taking initiatives to improve their own lives and the lives of their children. I look forward to continuing our work together on this important outreach activity in 2017!

Respectfully submitted,
Heather MacKenzie
Project Manager

Church Group Reports

Paulettes (United Church Women of St. Paul's United Church)

The Paulettes met three times in 2016, with 12-15 persons present each time. In March Daniel Barasa spoke about life in the United Nations refugee camp in Kenya, where he lived for over three years and volunteered as a teacher. In June we enjoyed a field trip to Coyote Lake Lodge, which is being developed as a place where people with disabilities, seniors and others can enjoy the outdoors all year round, by Alberta Abilities Lodges Society. In December we shared memories of our childhood Christmases and enjoyed a potluck luncheon at the home of Eleanor Wein.

With assistance from others, the Paulettes served at memorial or funeral service receptions for eight individuals in 2016. We donated \$1500 to St. Paul's United Church, \$500 to the Quilters, and \$500 to Alberta Abilities Lodges Society for their Coyote Lake Lodge project.

Respectfully submitted,
Eleanor Wein, Chair

St. Paul's Flower Group

As for the past many, many years the Flower Group continues to assume the responsibility of providing flowers for the chancel each Sunday, with special flowers for Easter and Christmas and arrangements of fall bounty for Thanksgiving as well as a wreath for Remembrance Sunday. In addition, one of our members cares for the plants in the Friendship Room and Sanctuary. We are grateful for the placement of memorial or funeral bouquets that we acknowledge with a letter on behalf of St. Paul's congregation and the Flower Committee. After the Sunday service we attempt to arrange that the flowers be given to someone whose day will be brightened by receiving them. We welcome being made aware of such persons.

We provide the opportunity for members to purchase plants in memory or honour of dear ones at Easter and Christmas and after the service to take them home if they wish. Besides the occasional donation this provides our only source of revenue. At Easter we offer hydrangeas as well as Easter lilies and poinsettias at Christmas. This year a record number of plants were ordered for each occasion and always enhance the beauty of the chancel.

In addition to work on the inside of the church, in June, we purchase and plant flowers in the urns in the Memorial Garden and arrange a roster of our members to keep them watered and healthy. This year was the 30th anniversary of the Memorial Garden and on September 18th the congregation were invited to move to the Garden where Catherine conducted the last part of the service. Restructuring the Memorial Garden is included in the plans for the Beautification of St. Paul's. We invite you to visit the Memorial Garden in the summer to sit for a quiet moment and enjoy the blossoms.

We are always considering ways to further enhance the beauty of our church and sanctuary so from time to time you may notice some changes, especially during the Christmas season and outside. We welcome your ideas and comments.

Our membership includes Jane Alton, Gwyn Bailey, Marion Brooker, Marian Carmichael, Marianne Elder, Marguerite Gendall, Ruth Glancy, Evelyn Henderson, Sheryl Lynn, Anne Miller-Royds, Betty Mullen, Lorene Turner, Margaret Russell, Marianne Scott, Dawna Wiebe and Dale Wilkie and this year we were delighted to welcome new members Pat Greenways and Pat McGeachy to our group. We sincerely thank retiring members Jean Gillespie and Donna Stewart Williams who, as original members of the committee, faithfully served for many, many years. They will be sorely missed. We would happily welcome 2 or 3 additional members so, if you are interested, please contact Betty or any member of our committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Mullen, Chair

The Quilting Group

The Quilting Group meets on Monday mornings in the Lower Hall for two hours starting at 9:30 am. Drop-in helpers and new members are all welcome!

The Quilters have enjoyed using the space in the southwest corner of the Lower Hall, our home since September 2015. Along with natural light from the high windows, the new light fixtures installed by the Property Committee last February offer excellent lighting.

In March, we revised the wording which pertained to the Quilting Group on the St. Paul's United Church website. Find us under "Outreach".

Throughout the year, members of our group have contributed in many ways; their presence is especially valuable, but they also donate sheets and fabric and thread, promote our group, bring snacks and have even made monetary donations to the Quilting Group. Some work from home by sewing tops and sewing the edging of the quilts; a couple of the ladies have even created and donated beautiful pieced quilts. Joan (Office Administrator) offers support in many ways, too, by being a liaison between us and those who drop off donations and providing assistance when administrative questions or chores come up.

In the fall of 2016, we humbly accepted over 50 quilt tops, even some completed quilts, from quilters outside of our group. The work on these pieces has been beautifully done and we are honoured to pass the quilts along to those who will appreciate them dearly. Additionally, our own Eva produced 54 quilt tops since summer! Our hands will be kept busy for many weeks!

Though we rely on donated fabrics, gently used sheets for backings and various other tools of the trade, we do need to purchase batting for the quilts. In 2016 we had the good fortune to receive directed donations from some members of the congregation as well as a generous contribution from

the Paulettes. We are very grateful to all for without the ability to buy batting, which is our biggest expense, we could not continue our Outreach Ministry.

We are always grateful for the sewing help we receive from beyond our group and the donations of fabric that trickle in throughout the year.

Quilt Donations and Gifts

- In February, we presented Rainbow Refugee Daniel Barasa a quilt as a welcoming gift.
- In April, to lift Sheryl's spirits after surgery, we gifted her with a bright, happy cozy quilt.
- Later in April, we donated a beautiful pieced quilt to the Social Justice Committee as a silent auction fundraiser. It was made by one of our members and because of the maple leaf theme in the design, she dubbed it the "Welcome to Canada" quilt.
- In May & December, we donated a total of 48 quilts to the First Steps Program.
- In early October, a child's quilt went to the Racecourse Community School fundraiser.
- In mid October, the Quilters provided a quilt which was presented to refugee Adebayo Katiiti on behalf of the congregation.
- Throughout the year, 7 quilts were given to people who were given assistance with damage deposits through the Ministers' Benevolent Fund.

Quilting Group members and friends At the close of 2016, our active members included Lois Benson, Betty Mullen, Kelly Munro, Eva Penzes-Wright (a founding member), Donna Ross, Eleanor Wein and Claudia Wiens-Loranger. Three ladies who participated in the ESL Program have been helping us with our quilt projects for several weeks and we have greatly enjoyed their company. Marion Grimsrud and Betty Simmonds have set aside their sewing machines for now and Sheryl Lynn is still recovering her stamina, but they continue to cheer us on and join us when they are able.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Ross

Edmonton Presbytery Report

2016 for Edmonton Presbytery started in January with a meeting hosted by Korean United Church in the United on Whyte building and chaired by Edmonton Presbytery Chair Susan Waldie.

A New Trust Plan for St. Andrew's United was presented. Charitable status can be revoked if churches operate for-profit endeavours. Working with St. Andrew's and legal counsel for General Council, they are developing an alternative to the Model Trust Deed, under which all United Church property is held.

The paperwork is in process to complete the transfer of Kirk United property to the General Council. This is an interesting model and the Kirk United congregation will continue to worship in the sanctuary.

Debbie Hubbard led an information session on the TRC Report, which includes 94 Calls to Action of which 14 are directed to faith groups. Of interest, "Calls 49 and 59" call on religious denominations and faith groups to acknowledge their presence on indigenous lands, and the impact of colonialism. "Call 62" urges the development of a mandatory K-12 curriculum.

Riverbend United received their refugee family of 13, and is seeking financial support from donors. Sherwood Park United is part of an ecumenical group sponsoring another refugee family.

Avonmore, Pleasantview and Ritchie United Churches are worshipping together in the former Avonmore building (Knox-Metropolitan will join in July). A plan is being developed which includes using the proceeds of the sales of the other properties for New Church Development and a Futures Fund.

In February, a motion was approved to recommend a plan for disbursement of proceeds from the sale of the Ebenezer property, in accordance with the Alberta and Northwest Conference Revitalization Fund Policy.

In May, two General Council remits were introduced.

Remit 2: Elimination of the Transfer and Settlement Process. The 42nd General Council 2015 approved, subject to remit, the elimination of the Transfer Settlement processes for members of the Order of Ministry within the United Church, including the elimination of the General Council Transfer Committee. Discussion revolved around what process might replace Transfer, the importance of the United Church's conciliar model in the call and appointment process, and the impact on small rural churches. Edmonton Presbytery recorded a "no" vote.

Remit 5: Ministry Partners within Mutual Recognition Agreements. The General Council also approved the establishment of a category of "ministry partner" for ministers of denominations within mutual recognition agreements, with eligibility for call or appointment within the United Church as determined by the specific contents of the agreements. Subject to remit, a "ministry partner," while

under appointment or call, would be a full member of the presbytery and equivalent to an ordered minister of the United Church in respect to membership and responsibilities in all courts of the church. After discussion of the opportunities for broader experiences, Edmonton Presbytery recorded a “yes” vote.

In June Presbytery approved the no-cost transfer of Ritchie United property to Edmonton Korean United. Discussion included the importance of naming this as a legacy of Ritchie United, and appreciation for the leadership shown in this process.

In September the 2017 Presbytery budget was presented. After a discussion of Presbytery priorities, the proposed budget (expenses: \$371,040; revenue: \$354,300; deficit: \$6,740) was approved. Presbytery approved a 0% change in assessments, and the priorities expressed in the budget.

In October, Presbytery approved support for three Mission Support applications. Presbytery forwarded the 3 requests to the Alberta and Northwest Conference for final approval. The applications are:

- *Faith Lift* Chaplaincy at the University of Alberta: \$15,000
- Inner City Pastoral Ministry (Oskapew position): \$8,000
- Bissell Centre (for Robert Tegler Friendship Room): \$65,00

In November it was noted that Beverly United is completing the process of becoming an Affirming congregation. Also, in January 2017, the Ashbourne (Garneau United Assisted Living Place) will become Affirming.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Miller

Minutes of the Annual Meeting 2016

St. Paul's United Church Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting February 7, 2016

PRESENT: a total of 76 attendees (members, adherents, and ministers) signed the attendance sheet.

GATHERING AND CALL TO ORDER: Chair, Jim Smythe, called the meeting to order at 12:10 pm. He thanked all who had helped to make the arrangements. He announced that a large majority had voted as follows: 1) to extend voting, except for elections, to adherents; 2) to vote by show of hands, and 3) to appoint Aubrene Anderson as secretary for this meeting.

PROCEDURES: Just prior to the meeting, members filled in ballots with three procedural questions for conducting the meeting namely: 1) whether to extend voting, except for elections, to adherents; 2) whether to vote by show of hands, and 3) whether to appoint Aubrene Anderson as secretary for this meeting. The circulated agenda - MOTION by Sheila Brown 2nd Dave McNabb then adopted by consent.

OPENING PRAYER AND MEMORIALS: Catherine led us in the opening prayer, and in remembering those named in the 2015 Annual Report who died during the past year.

MINUTES of the Annual Congregational Meeting of February 1, 2015 – Motion by Darren Nichols to adopt these Minutes, seconded by Lee Foote - Carried.

CHURCH YEAR HIGHLIGHTS: Daniel Greenways and Paul Preston gave a humorous and informative summary of the many accomplishments from the 2015 Annual Report, along with highlights of the youth group, community involvement and appreciation of participation, refugees, and "no babies!" (a reference to the anticipation of delivery dates for *both* our musicians).

STAFF, COMMITTEE AND PRESBYTERY REPORTS: MOTION to accept these, as written in the 2015 Annual Report, for information by Isabel Becking and seconded by John Kuzyk - carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Linda Breitreitz, Treasurer, reviewed the financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2015, including balance sheet, operating income statement, directed receipts and disbursements, restricted receipts and disbursements and Campus Ministry Income Statement. Explanation about decision made by Board in connection with the disbursement of the \$26,000 surplus as noted in the report, leaving \$8,000 as a cash surplus in retained earnings in 2016. MOTION to accept the 2015 Financial Statements was made by Dave Carr, seconded by John Kuzyk.

Discussion: Daren Nichols wanted confirmation that PAR is preferential – most advantageous to church – from bank account is better; less cost than credit card charge. Jean Lawson – Garneau Food Security – Did we give nothing to Food Security? Linda noted Board did not direct any of its operating

revenue to that cause, but that members of church give directed givings – in 2015 \$477 was collected for Food Security in this way. The vote was taken and the motion to accept the Financial Statements carried.

REVIEW OF 2014 AND 2015 FINANCIAL RECORDS: Internal auditors (volunteer members of congregation) are asked to review our financial statements to ensure our record keeping is done properly. The 2014 financial records were reviewed in 2015 by Shona Nichols and Tim Vinge – everything looks good. MOTION to accept the report from the 2014 internal auditors by Jerry Heath 2nd Dave Carr – Carried. For 2015, Don Purdy and Jennifer McKercher-Rott have volunteered for the internal auditors task. Motion by Don Gardner 2nd Shirley Gifford that Don Purdy and Jennifer McKercher-Rott be accepted for the 2015 internal audit – Carried.

RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION:

- Staff – by Lorene Everett-Turner, who noted that much effort and work going on behind the scene – serving on the board or committees. Several highlights – welcoming new babies and accolades to each staff member – ministers - Catherine’s sabbatical and co-writing book, Denise’s involvement with youth and Campus Ministry, Rony’s excellent work with the children in Godly Play; and to our music director, Susan Farrell, our organist/musician, Tyson Kerr; Joan Townend, our office staff, and our custodian, Dja. Dave McNabb added his thanks to the staff for the juggling act they do individually and together with leadership flowing through the group to meet needs of congregation.
- Board, Committees, Teams and Volunteers – Jim Smythe recognized the “ocean” of volunteers at our church – Board, committees, teams, special committees, fund raising, many groups, welcomers, sound guys, drivers, visiting, nursery, lunch, choir, librarian, counters – thanks to all!

SABBATICAL UPDATE: Catherine MacLean spoke about her sabbatical – visits to places and people, looking at the Holy Ghost – how we express God – reading and going to archives – take people to lunch and ask them relevant questions – on-going project experiencing God – attended a number of conferences –one at the Canadian Theological Society – enjoying congregation and listening/learning. Book launch in October – co-author with John Young.

BOARDS STRATEGIC PLAN – Progress Report: Jim Smythe reviewed the Plan initiated a year ago with the intent to ensure long term vitality and viability of St. Paul’s. 1) Governance – review of bylaws and trust funds – ongoing: fine-tuning needed. 2) Rejuvenate Basement – work is happening – survey done – now in phase 2 of project with actual concrete concepts/ideas and very soon there will be a few remodelling choices and costs involved. 3) Grow congregation – looking at things we do in church – programming – evaluation of programming – do differently? Communications team to be more forward in projecting to our community – get word out – Daniel Greenways is head of this team. 4) Engage wider community in spiritual nurturing ways – increasingly active Spiritual Nurture Committee & Social Justice Team – events and lunches, engage with others. 5 year plan – happening over time.

Heather McKenzie asked: Social Justice Team does not now have a vote at Board meetings. Are there plans to revisit constitution so Social Justice Team can have a vote at board meetings? Jim: constitution review – that would be reviewed, or if impatient could try to encourage the next board to consider asking congregation to make a simple amendment to constitution to amend this.

LONG TERM CAPITAL PLAN: Dave Carr reported on progress – Landscaping phase 1 completed and phase 2 is part of Beautification Committee's mandate. In spring, the furnaces, roof and air duct system will again be reviewed. They had a quote from a company to manage project but it was far too high so they will seek alternative quotes. Dave McNabb is also researching possible government grants – costs might be lower in 2015. When get the quotes in place and costs are firm, Property will approach the Board for approval then congregation. Other projects that are high priority for 2016: air ducts – operating, replacing aging furnaces. Basement renovation – survey done and now there is a committee: Dean Olmstead, Shona Nichols and Marianne Scott who had their initial meeting last Friday. They will present 3 draft proposals for basement and costs of each proposal (hopefully spring 2016) then present to Board and special Congregational meeting for review and approval.

2016 BUDGET: Kyle Townend presented the 2016 budget and a narrative budget with a pie chart showing a breakdown of 2015 results and 2016 operating budget. Donation revenue is estimated in three categories: 1) pledge or PAR donors, 2) consistent donation history, 3) speculative reliability, i.e. short donation history or sporadic. Expenses are estimated by each committee; salaries are non-flexible expenses. And showing the \$8000 surplus from 2015 being held in anticipation of an \$8000 deficit in 2016 – as recommended by Finance Committee and Board. Discussion: Don Gardner – revenue problem – down \$15,000 last year; done analysis? Why are givings down? Kyle – PAR down a bit: people moved away or have died, projections are decreased from 2015. Looking at ways to grow congregation but status quo for now. Jim – projecting a drop again – possibly cause for concern and Jim will have a project for next year – measures to solidify revenue in the future. Heather MacKenzie – we seem to be running surpluses by the end of every year; can we adjust how we budget to account for this? Kyle – budget for 2015 – under regular givings, we budgeted very close – and take committee expense estimates into account – but have some uncertain variables in expenses and income. Jim – trying to be honest with budget – expenses harder to predict – eg. 2015 utilities were lower, eg. In 2014 Denise's salaries partly paid by insurance. This past year we thought we may have a deficit – property held off with some of their expenses. Big donations received in December so we ended up with a surplus. Don Retson – M&S enthusiast – suggested that a consistent amount be allocated to M&S each year – 2017 have a line in budget for M&S – our church has fallen to 9th place in United Church. MOTION to accept the 2016 proposed Budget, by Dave Carr seconded by Dave McNabb.

Discussion: Jim advised how Mission & Service has not been budgeted for many years – individuals in congregation give to M&S fund through directed givings (M & S is available through PAR) or fund raising events. Although Board does not have a line item the congregation gave over \$16,000 last year. Also, Board has directed a portion of past surprise surpluses to M&S. Heather – opinion that we should ask for next budget cycle direction from congregation to put M&S line item in 2017 budget. Being proactive for next year. Ask Board to include M&S line item in 2017 budget – 1% of revenues. Heather Razaghi: going out into the world – church plays a role of leadership – need to address this. Motion (to accept the 2016 proposed Budget), - carried.

MOTION that the congregation direct the Board to include in 2017 budget a line item for spending on Mission & Service of an amount greater than zero dollars – by Don Retson and 2nd Heather MacKenzie. Discussion: Eleanor – include all revenue that comes into the church? Heather – include revenues – not specific amount – help address some of our stewardship issues – set a goal for M&S givings. Jack – doesn't Presbytery allocate a portion to M&S? Catherine – used to receive a pledge form in past years but not now. Amy – if a line item were written in may have a negative effect – seeing that church is giving, individuals may reduce directed givings; yet she still sees the symbolic importance of adding a line item. Dean Olmstead – don't disagree with intent – nervous about passing a motion for a budget for 2017 – perhaps “for consideration” in 2017 . Don Retson – did not want a figure – wanted to allow for flexibility. Heather – symbolism of M&S giving. Linda: a lot of funds are already directed outside church to various outreach programs, by individual directed givings and fundraisers. Isabel Becking – agree that we give a lot of \$ to projects but M&S supports many organizations and many more groups, which we should support through M&S. MOTION to take an immediate vote (by Amy Kaler). Carried by a majority greater than 2/3. Original MOTION (that the congregation direct the Board to include in 2017 budget a line item for spending on Mission & Service of an amount greater than zero dollars): Carried.

ELECTIONS:

- Presbytery Representatives – St. Paul's has 2 representatives – John Kuzyk and Bob Miller. MOTION to Re-Elect; by Amy Kaler seconded by Dave Carr - carried
- Board of Trustees – Currently: Alan Scott, Don Gardner, Clare Irwin and Gweth Purdy – MOTION to Re-elect; by Lorene Turner seconded by Eleanor Wein. carried.
- Official Board – Jim Smythe and Linda Breitreitz are finishing their terms as Chair and Treasurer, respectively. Currently other Board positions are: Property – Dave Carr; all who have agreed to continue in these positions for another year.

MOTION to elect the following persons to the Official Board: Colleen Falk as Board Chair – motion – Isabel Becking 2nd Donna Craig – carried. Justin Wheler as Vice-Chair – motion by Paul Preston 2nd Darren Nichols – carried. Roy Townend as Treasurer – motion by Dave Carr 2nd Linda Breitreitz – carried. Marian Carmichael as Finance Chair – motion by Don Gardner, seconded Don Purdy – carried. Shannon Lynn as Membership & Congregational Care Chair – motion by John Kuzyk, 2nd Gweth Purdy – carried. Property Chair - Dave Carr – motion by Amy Kaler 2nd Heather Razaghi – carried. Stewardship Chair – no nominations. Stewardship Chair remains vacant for 2nd year in a row. Returning Board members (still serving their term) are Worship – Amy Kaler; Ministry & Personnel – Lorene Turner, Spiritual Nurture – Jim Stewart; Aubrene Anderson – Secretary.

CLOSING PRAYER: by Denise Davis-Taylor.

Meeting closed at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Aubrene Anderson, Secretary

Membership

Baptisms

Arene Elizabeth Nikolaichuk
Keir Michael Thomas Patterson
Hannah Nikolaia Renskjen Peet
Patricia Lynn Kier Senkiw

Marriages

Julie Jane Tchir & John Riel Bencic
Whitney Marie Gendall & Jeffrey Lorne McKenzie
Kylie Elizabeth Fedchuk & Joshua Clarke Glen Marshall
Halie Natasha Buac & Joshua Anthony Wispinski
Samantha Mackenzie Reiter & Colin Franklin Bleakney
Shreyasi Ramaiah Gollapudi & Frank Jacob Brodhecker

Memorial and Funeral Services

* member

* Lorna May (Fraser) Heath
Dorothy Elizabeth (Caldwell) McCallister
* Gerald Henry (Jerry) Heath
Alexander Mark Coumantarakis
Edith Marie Rolf
John Alexander (Jack) McKenzie
Mathew Allan Tomm
Joyce Fern (Pascoe) Docken
Grace Margaret (Forbes) Peden
Gerald Walter (Jerry) Saelhof
Mirijam Helena Elisabet Haahti Goud
* Laura Wright (service to be held February 2017)

Members who died and no service was held at St. Paul's:

* Edna Eileen Cadek
* James (Jim) Douglas Graham
* William (Bill) Halford
* (Isabel) Louise Plewes (non-resident member in Comox, BC)