

# The Unitarian Church of Calgary



Annual Report  
August 2015 – July 2016

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## **Adult Religious Exploration (ARE)**

Team members: Lynn Nugent, Wendy Benson, Rev. Debra Faulk (ex-officio)

The purpose of the ARE Team is: To provide opportunities to come together in beloved community, to grow in wisdom, and deepen relationships. This is accomplished through varied adult programming designed to challenge, stimulate and encourage ethical/spiritual growth and just action. We aim to provide programming that is uniquely Unitarian Universalist and is not accessible elsewhere. We welcome members, friends, and people from the wider community to participate.

Three programs were directly offered by ARE this past year. Approximately thirty people participated in *Theme Based Listening Circles*. A facilitator training workshop was held in September with four participants. *Active Hope: How to Face the Mess We're in without Going Crazy* (Joanna Macy & Chris Johnstone) Study Group was offered by Rev Debra Faulk in the fall of 2015. Eleven people participated.

One other program offered was a combination of a UCC offering and registration in the wider community. This was the program *Get Living: Matters of Death and Life* offered by Lynn Nugent and two facilitators from outside the church – Marsha Read and Heather Johnston. The program was offered in February and March of 2016 and twenty participants attended, close to half of whom were from outside the church.

Our major project on behalf of the UCC community was the production of the church program brochure. Church wide programming and programs offered in the church by other groups but open to the congregation are listed in the brochure. We also monitor online program registration.

Thank you to Rebekah Mosley-Kasner for her work in producing our printed brochure and Ann Kyle for program listings on the website.

We welcome comments and enquiries at [adultprograms@unitarianscalgary.org](mailto:adultprograms@unitarianscalgary.org),

On behalf of the Adult Religious Exploration Team,

Lynn Nugent (retired from the team fall 2016)

## **Board of Trustees**

Until November 2015 your Board of Trustees were President John Michell, Past-President Mary-Anna Louise Kovar, Vice President Jeff Webber, Secretary Bonnie Evans, Treasurer Bob Willson, and Trustees Brandis Purcell, Barbara Lane, and Fay Giroux. In November Bonnie Evans moved away. Her place as Secretary was ably filled by Brandis Purcell, and Susan Drake filled the remainder of Brandis' term as Trustee.

Starting in May 2016 the Board comprised President John Michell, Vice President Liz Webster, Secretary Kenzie Love, Treasurer Bob Willson, and Trustees Jeff Webber, Barbara Lane, Fay Giroux, and Susan Drake.

We met monthly to review financial reports and updates from staff and committee liaisons, consider policy and management concerns, and schedule and manage Board events and congregational meetings.

We were happy to recognize Hendrik Schaink as the Panabaker Award recipient for 2016, and Bill Wuttunee as the recipient of the William Irvine Justice Award.

Our congregation showed its generosity by enthusiastically supporting the Refugee Committee as they raised funds and organized to sponsor two refugee families.

We put serious effort into improving the congregation's bylaws. Thanks to the members for considering the changes with wisdom and wit.

We were glad to be able to give Rev. Debra a well-deserved 4-month sabbatical, and we greatly appreciated the fine work done by Rev. Carly Gaylor as our Sabbatical Minister.

The Board thanks our wonderful staff and dedicated volunteers for their excellent work over the past year.

John Michell, President

## **Caring Committee**

Caring Committee – Liz Blackstock, Chair for 2016

Mandate

The caring team tends to the hearts of the congregation by coordinating the acknowledgment and support for members and friends as they experience life's joys and challenges. We nurture a sense of belonging and participation in our UCC Community by:

- Sending cards to recognize joys and sorrows in people's lives. We sent out approximately 80 cards this year to friends and members of the congregation.
- Compassion exchange, was introduced to the caring team by Chris Rothbauer. It matches those willing to provide services in a specific area with those who request these services. Ev Dewar is the contact for these services. However, this program is not being well utilized and the caring team must decide this year as to whether we will revise it or discontinue the program all-together.
- Community kitchen and casserole ministry meet approximately every two months and make meals that are packaged and put into the freezer to give to people from our church

and people that walk in off the street. It is very well utilized. We received a grant from the Calgary Foundation for \$600 this year.

- Comfort shawls are given to people that have suffered a loss. There is no record, as to how many shawls have been given out this year.
- This is the fourth year of Second Sunday Suppers which appear to be doing well. There was approximately a three-month period where the SSS were pot luck, instead of the original intention of having the meal being hosted by the members of our church. The pot luck has been discontinued and the original design has been reinstated with the last two SSS been hosted by our members. There were approximately 110 people at our last SSS.
- We have a box for food donations. These donations are given to people from the congregation but also to people that walk in off the street. The donations are not huge but are consistent and provide some relief in time of need.
- We provide hospitality for functions such as “Celebrations of Life”, etc.
- We give out blessing bags to members and those that walk in off the street. These bags contain hygiene paraphernalia, such as shampoo, tooth paste etc. and are left in our food box for distribution.
- Our community garden project had 17 gardens planted this year. It was a very successful year with 20 lbs of vegetables going to the food bank, feeding 100 people.

## Children and Youth Religious Exploration (CYRE) Program

**Nursery:** We have been fortunate to have Holly Noelle continue to staff the Nursery on Sunday mornings and provide child care for congregational programs. In the 2015-16 program year we saw between 1-4 children each Sunday in the Nursery.

### **Children’s Sunday Program:**

**Pre-School/Kindergarten** had a full teaching team made up of Heather Walker, Billy Tedford and Lisa Hurlle. This group spent a small amount of time with monthly theme input in the form of stories or songs and then enjoyed free play with volunteers reinforcing the theme through conversation and example.

**Younger Aged Kids (YAKs) and Middle Aged Kids (MAKs)** spent most of the year together in the same space using Monthly Theme based curriculum that was created by Nicola Russell. We are indebted to Marsha Haug for her loyal assistance with the YAK and MAK programs this year. We did find that it was challenging to interpret the more abstract monthly themes into suitable curriculum for the CYRE program. At the end of the year it was decided, in consultation with the staff and volunteers, to return to using the Tapestry of Faith UU Curriculum in the coming year.

**Youth** met on Sunday mornings with Rebecca Mobley-Kasner, assisted by Kenzie Love and followed two Tapestry of Faith curricula. One youth attended both the Western Regional Youth Con in Winnipeg in Oct. 2015 and CANUUDLE in Vancouver in May 2016.

**Our Whole Lives** – We were excited to have a total of 6 people attend a training for Elementary OWL in Nov. 2015 and a Junior/Senior High School training in May 2016 giving us a full complement of facilitators in this community to teach all levels of this program. This year we offered the Grades 4-6 OWL program throughout January and February on Sunday afternoons with 5 participants, and the

Kindergarten-Grade 2 Session ran through February and March with 6 participants. We are grateful to the leadership of Bev Webber, Shannon Mang, Heather Walker, Jeff Webber and Curtis Murphy who helped make this program such a success.

Other events:

**MidWinter Pageant-** *The Spirit of the Christmas Tree* was a lively Mid-Winter pageant written by beloved UU, Joyce Poley, performed on Dec.13. Brian Dorscht worked with the Hurrle-Gaudet family and Ben Bradt who read the parts of “the family” and the CYRE children chose who they would like to be in the play filling roles from angels to donkeys and butterflies in the Christian Story of Jesus’ birth. The play was designed as a pick-up pageant with parts that children would step into even if they had not been a part of the rehearsal process, which made it inclusive for anyone who wanted to participate. A big thank you to Michael Leboldus who took on the mammoth task of coordinating all the costumes and props for the event as well as being the stage manager, as well as Brian Dorscht, our Director.

Wanting to do their part to help our refugee family, one of the CYRE students proposed a **Grilled Cheese Sandwich and Soup** lunch fundraiser on Jan 24. With the assistance of Dean Kasner and Sabrina del Ben, the MAKs planned, made and served lunch to the congregation. The YAKs helped with making posters for the lunch and then joined the MAKs to greet people and hand out cutlery. There were two youth who helped with gathering and cleaning the dirty dishes. The event raised over \$600 for the refugee sponsorship committee.

**Spirit Jam MultiGenerational Sundays** were introduced to our community by Rev. Carly Gaylor, Sabbatical Interim minister. There were three Spirit Jam Sundays while Rev. Carly was with us and then had a fourth Spirit Jam Sunday in June after Rev. Debra returned. The children in the CYRE program enjoyed participating in the different activities along with other members of the congregation and were excited to host their own Spirit Jam session exploring poetry, colouring, and LEGO building. They even baked treats for all the participants.

**Secret Buddies-** This year there were 10 Secret Buddy pairs who exchanged correspondence from the first Sunday in Feb. to the second Sunday of March when we had our Secret Buddy reveal. Big thanks to Yoseth Diaz Romero who was our special postal worker delivering mail to the children on Sundays and sorting the mail for the adult buddies.

**CYRE Garden Box** There was a children’s garden box through the summer in the Community Garden. The children planted the seeds in June and harvested the box in Sept. with four households taking responsibility for the care of the garden through the Summer months. The children have also enjoyed lending a helping hand with “the Great Worm Rescue”, harvesting our California Wigglers before winter set in and returning the worms to their bins in the Spring.

Respectfully Submitted, Lisa Hurrle and Shannon Mang DRE

## Church Services Committee

Highlights:

1. While Rev Debra Faulk is on Sabbatical from January – April 2016, Rev Carly Gaylor comes in with a fresh wind carrying new ideas:
  1. Music and hymns are doubled if not tripled
  2. Spirit Jam services are offered a la smorgasbord buffet
  3. Order of Service displayed on-screen, only 20 copies printed
  4. Service Titles and Descriptions are only published 3 days in advance
2. Danielle completes her Intern Ministry by end of May-2016
3. Summer Services roster was complete, challenges remain for Summer Sunday support
4. Sunday Panabaker setup tasks delegated to SWEET
5. AV system
  1. Mostly complete
  2. RE teachers offered USB sticks with Video recording of service
  3. Video recordings archived on UCC NAS server
6. Wanted:
  1. AV Sunday crew needs additional Video and Sound operators
  2. Presentation team needs additional PowerPoint creators

Respectfully submitted by Hendrik Schaink, Chair

## Committee on Shared Ministry

The mandate of the Committee on Shared Ministry (COSM) is to strengthen the quality of shared ministry within the congregation. COSM ensures that the church and our minister are serving the Purpose of the Unitarian Church of Calgary, facilitates problem-solving in conflict situations, and supports the minister.

During the 2015-2016 church year, COSM:

- Put the finishing touches on a report of the church-wide survey held during the 2014-2015 church year and the minister's evaluation
- Helped mediate conflicts between church members
- Helped shepherd a by-law change to allow the minister to be an ex officio member of COSM in accordance with her Letter of Call. This was approved at the February 2016 congregational meeting.
- Worked on revising its mandate to provide a clearer list of COSM's roles and responsibilities and to make sure that these are aligned with both the Church By-Laws and the Minister's Letter of Call. This work is ongoing.

Goals for 2015-2016 include but are not limited to:

- Completing the mandate revision and submitting it to the Board of Trustees for approval
- Raising the profile of COSM with the congregation

We sincerely thank outgoing members Eric Leavitt and Marie Collins and board liaison Mary-Anna Louise Kovar. We welcome new member Brandis Purcell (elected by the congregation) and new board liaison Kenzie Love. There is still one additional member (the minister's choice) that needs to be added to our committee.

COSM membership is Ann Kyle, Margaret McCrae, Dean Kasner, Brandis Purcell, one other member to be determined, and Rev Debra Faulk. Our board liaison is Kenzie Love.

Respectively submitted by Ann Kyle Email [cosm@unitarianscalgary.org](mailto:cosm@unitarianscalgary.org).

## Communications Team

The church has many ways of communicating with you! While there is no official "committee", the people who handle all these modes of communications collaborate with each other.

**Quest and Reflections monthly newsletter:** Martha Mantikoski, our office administrator, produces the Quest and Reflections monthly newsletter. As of April 2016, these two publications were combined into one magazine. The Quest is available for pick-up at the first Sunday Service of each month and mailed to those unable to pick up. It is also available on our church website (<http://unitarianscalgary.org/newsletter/>). Deadline for submissions is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.

**Enews:** Martha also compiles and sends out our weekly newsletter, the "Enews." You can sign up to have it delivered to your email inbox (<http://unitarianscalgary.us2.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=b7a365f567528b74b4ccca5b9&id=4005648584>) or you can access it from our website <http://unitarianscalgary.org/newsletter/> or our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/unitarianscalgary/>). The Enews is usually posted on Wednesdays. Deadline for submissions is Tuesday night.

**Website:** Our church website (<http://unitarianscalgary.org/>) runs on a WordPress platform using the "Ecclesia" theme. The website team consists of Ann Kyle (content manager since 2006) and John Michell (website adviser and "back-end" manager). The theme is starting to get old and the layout is not responsive to different devices, such as tablets and smart phones, so we are looking to migrate to a new theme soon.

**Facebook Page:** The Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/unitarianscalgary/>) is the official voice of the church, and content is posted by members of the staff and the communication team.

**Facebook Group:** The Facebook group, called the "UCC Discussion Forum", <https://www.facebook.com/groups/unitarianscalgary/> is for general discussion. Anyone can apply to become a member, and all members can post content. Penney Kome is the principle administrator of this group.

**Wayside Pulpit:** Jeb Gaudet has been managing the wayside pulpit - the sign on the east exterior wall of our church. He consults with an advisory group (Marie Collins, Mary Jane Hussey, Ann Kyle, Patrick Sweet and Debra Faulk) to come up with quotes that reflect the theme of the month.

Many thanks to all the people mentioned above for making our church communications diverse, interesting and accessible!

Respectfully submitted by Ann Kyle

## **Co-op Gift Card Fundraising Program**

Our Co-op store gift card program at UCC is a fundraiser for the church. Folks who shop and get gasoline at the Co-op stores support the church at no extra cost to themselves. The Co-op gift card team take orders every month for grocery/gas cards and liquor cards. The church receives a percentage of each order on a sliding scale: less than \$5000 – 4%, \$5000-\$9999 – 6%, over \$10,000 – 9%.

During the fiscal year of August 2015 to July 2016 the Co-op gift card program raised a total of \$7488.75 for the church.

Your team: Ev Dewar, Frances Schaink, Sheila Ward, recently retired Lynn Nugent, and new recruit Alex Russell.

## **Denominational Affairs Committee**

Although we have not had an active Denominational Affairs Committee for some time, there is always someone on the Board of Trustees charged with promoting denominational events. In 2015-16 that role was carried by John Michell, with assistance from Jane Ebborn.

Several Calgarians travelled to Winnipeg for the Western Region Fall Gathering in October where six Calgarians participated in the adult program, one served as youth advisor and three youth participated in the Youth Conference. Four adults and one youth from our congregation attended the Annual Conference and Meeting in Vancouver. Rev Debra attended both the Winnipeg and Vancouver events.

We're proud to note that our Jane Ebborn continues as a Trustee on the Board of the Canadian Unitarian Council.

## **Finance Committee**

**Church Information Management System:** We continue to use Power Church Plus as our membership database and financial system.

**Rental Income:** We continue to have active use of our building both by contract tenants, seasonal and one time users. Thanks to our Office Administrator Martha Mantikoski for her careful efforts over the year to support this important revenue stream.

**Fundraising:** Approved numerous fundraising initiatives.

**Policies:** Reviewed and updated the Rental Policy and Large Donation Policy and forwarded to Board for approval.

**Financial Activity Duties:** Revised the distribution of duties among Treasurer, Accountant, Bookkeeper, Receiver and Finance Committee.

**Goals:** Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the receiving and payment function.

Reviewing the telephone system.

**Acknowledgements:** The committee has consisted of Eric Leavitt, Bob Pond, John Collins, Yoseth Ramirez Diaz, John Michell, and Bob Willson. We are looking for volunteers for the Chair and committee members. We are a cohesive group that works together to support the Treasurer.

Submitted by Bob Willson

## **Green Sanctuary Committee Annual Report**

The initial event of the season was the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Local Food Supper, held on September 25, in partnership with the Permaculture Calgary Guild. The event was a near sellout, with total attendance of 149. Thanks to Janet Melrose for her organizing efforts.

In February, the committee sponsored a Sunday forum on Green Chemistry, featuring Dr. Philip Jessop. Attendance was about 40, a mix of church members and community participants. It generated some lively discussion.

The committee presented another series of four environmental films, in partnership with Permaculture Calgary. Average attendance was 50-60, except for the showing of Naomi Klein's "This Changes Everything", which generated a full house of over 110.

The community garden had another successful year, with all boxes rented, and over 70 pounds of excess produce delivered to the food bank. All of the boxes were topped up with compost, and another common box was built. Special thanks to Sheila Ward for managing the garden this year.

The horticultural therapy program continued under the leadership of Janet Melrose, with a core group of 7-8 clients and several occasional drop-ins. A \$10,000 grant from the Calgary Foundation provided funding for the program during the year.

The committee operated on a self-financing basis, with no funds from the church budget.

Carl Svoboda, co-chair Green Sanctuary committee

## History and Archives Committee

The History and Archives Committee serves to ensure that a continuing record of the history of the Unitarian Church of Calgary is maintained. Historical information is used to guide the work of church committees, to provide an interesting record of past events and activities, to promote awareness of our church and congregational history, and to provide a record for possible future study by historians.

Activities of the committee in the past year:

- Responded to several requests pertaining to historical information, from Intern Minister, Governance Committee, Director of Religious Education, and Lay Chaplain.
- Began work on an updated church history document covering the period 2001-2015, to supplement the existing booklet "Nine Unitarian Decades".
- Collected materials for inclusion in scrapbooks or for archiving.
- Contributed articles to the Quest for three editions in the past year.
- Planning for hosting an October 2016 event in conjunction with nation-wide webcast on the life of Lotta Hitschmanova.

There are currently 5.5 metres of archived material stored at the Glenbow Museum. As well, minutes of each committee form a part of the Archives that are kept at the Church for 5 years, as a resource to committees on their past activities and decisions taken.

Members: Loretta Biasutti (Chair), Jim Bowman (Archivist), Helen Backhouse, Frances Schaink

Board Liaison: John Michell

Submitted by: Loretta Biasutti

## Internship Committee

Unitarian Church of Calgary Internship Committee for Danielle Webber

The internship committee consisted of Lynn Nugent, Gorham Hussey, Corinna Nielson, Christopher Fietz, and, the intern minister, Danielle Webber.

Our committee helped Danielle refine her Learning Service Agreement - essentially her work/lesson plan for her internship here, following her school's guidelines, and with input from Reverend Debra Faulk. We met with Danielle almost every month. We reviewed her sermons, presentations, and events here at the church, offering feedback and perspective. We also helped Danielle refine her presentation to the Board of her Focussed Initiative (one element of her Learning Service

Agreement). She reached out to the Siksika nation and helped set up the Caring Cooking Connection program here at the Unitarian Church. Danielle's relationship with the Siksika nation lead to UUPhonia singing Christmas carols at the Siksika nation's annual volunteer appreciation and Christmas party.

In April of 2016 our committee submitted its contribution to a comprehensive final internship evaluation of Danielle that went to the Ministerial Fellowship Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Association. We were delighted to see how much Danielle had continued to mature as a minister over the year. We supported Danielle while she secured her formal internship after graduation at Toronto First.

Our committee, with much help from many members of the UCC, on a very tight schedule organized and held a celebration, "Bon Voyage, Danielle!" on Sunday, May 29, 2016. This celebration of Danielle and her internship was well attended and had a very full program with presentations from the staff, the Board, her friends, this committee, and her parents. Her apple tree continues to group in the church's east garden.

Knowing that Danielle's internship would be ending at the end of the year this committee called for and attended a meeting in December of 2015 with the minister, members of the board, and Danielle to discuss the implications of being a teaching congregation with an intern minister each year. Our committee chair, Corinna Nielson, was key in managing a Northern Lights fundraising campaign for hiring the next intern minister. She also advocated that the UCC have another intern minister at the Council of Committees meeting. Ultimately, there was not sufficient money in the budget for a new intern minister for August 2016 to July 2017, so this committee has not been active since the end of May 2016.

Submitted by Christopher Fietz

## **Lay Chaplaincy Committee**

No report submitted.

## **Membership Committee**

Membership Committee: Leslie Buckle, Mary Jane Hussey, Duff Bond, Barbara Lane, Rev. Debra Faulk

Eleven new members joined the church over the past church year, and one person became a friend. The committee continues to hold a new member recognition ceremony and breakfast twice a year.

Mary Jane Hussey, Barbara Lane, Leslie Buckle, Rev. Carly, while she was here, and Rev. Debra offered three Introduction to Unitarian Universalism workshops, in October, 2015, January, 2016, and April,

2016, for a total of 14 people. We continue to experiment with ways of making these sessions more relevant and meaningful to participants.

The Newcomers' Table at coffee hour, staffed by a Board member provides an opportunity to share information, answer questions, and generally make the visitor feel welcome.

For the third year, the committee organized the delivery of Christmas cards and cookies to 'seldom seen' members of the church, reaching out to include other volunteers. We work with the Caring Team to review the membership list regularly and pass on names of people who might need support.

We continued to refine our procedures, including making the membership application available on line. Several new members have chosen this method to submit their application.

- Number of members
  - 2014 – 166 to 169, as above
  - 2015 – 160 (as reported for AGM, Nov. 2015)
  - 2016 – 160
  - As noted above, there were 11 new members in the 12 months ending July 31, 2016, and 15 in the previous 12 months. Our lack of growth can be attributed to the fact that the number of members who died, moved away, or otherwise left the church exceeds the number of new members.

Submitted by Leslie Buckle, chair

## **Minister's Report**

I write this report as I begin my seventh year serving UCC, while reflecting on year six. Significant this year was that I was on sabbatical for four months, January through May. Sabbatical offered a significant time for reflection and discernment about my ministry with UCC and I will say that absence did make the heart grow fonder. Shared ministry often uses the metaphor of marriage, the commitment to each other needing to be re-expressed in many ways with each year deepening the quality of that commitment and the mutual love and respect as a goal. I will say that time and time away have deepened my love of our community. I find myself excited and challenged with the potential and opportunities for envisioning new ways of doing church to meet the changing needs of those seeking a community such as ours. I cherish the willingness to take risks, to reimagine as we take care of each other. We are truly building Beloved Community.

### **Staff Supervision:**

**Music Director** ~ Jane Perry completes her 5<sup>th</sup> year and it is impossible to put in words the gratitude I hold for the shared ministry we do together. Her leadership, creativity, sense of humour and calm presence is a gift.

**Director of Religious Education** ~ (Children & Youth) Shannon Mang, has now completed her second year. She has such experience with 'church' and is more grounded in Unitarian Universalism. I am grateful for her wisdom and commitment.

**Office Administrator** ~ Martha Mantikoski is now into her second year with us and continues to grow the position. This year was a trial with her editing the Quest and Reflections newsletters. Grateful that it is working so there is a central printed communication hub. To facilitate this expectation her Thursday morning is offsite, without interruption.

**Other:**

**Pastoral Care** ~ Services I conducted include: Memorial Services: Ruth Barker (1/11/15) Bill Wuttnee (12/11/5); Iris Torfason (4/6/16); wedding: Charlene Hoepfner & Ned Leavett (12/4/14).

**Teaching Congregation** ~ Danielle Webber completed her 3<sup>rd</sup> year of seminary training was our ½ time Intern Minister. It has been an honour and delight to witness her growth, a privilege to have been her 'Teaching Pastor'.

**Theme-Based Ministry** ~ now is integrated into much of what we do and our Adult programs. It has been one of the ways we have simplified what we do. The Theme-Based Listening Circle (TLCs) have offered a structure small group experience that has had very positive feedback.

**Church Services** ~ continue to offer support to the church service experience as well as support to the Sabbatical minister, Carly Gaylor.

Sabbatical:

- Completed a course at Meadville Lombard
- Attended the Installation (Induction) of Bob Janis Dillon in UK
- Visited numerous Unitarian churches in UK
- Visited Michael Servetus locations
- Visited intentional communities of Taize and Damanhur
- Attended multi-site ministry sites in Albuquerque and San Diego
- Present for the birth of grandsons Hudson and Noah

**Wider Community**

- Chair of Board, Metro Alliance for the Common Good; president of IAF Canada
- Serving on implementation team of the Calgary Poverty Reduction Initiative
- Calgary Interfaith Council representative

## **DENOMINATIONAL INVOLVEMENT**

**CUC** -- attended Western Regional Gathering & CUC ACM; serve as minister representative to the National Public Voice; worked closely with president to coordinate UUMOC/staff/Board day following the ACM

**UU Ministers of Canada** – completed my term as Chapter Past-President in May; elected Minister Observer to the CUC Board

### **UU Ministers Association:**

- Chosen as one of 4 Canadian Good Officers;
- Serve as a clergy Coach:

### **Meadville Lombard Theological School**

- Teaching Pastor
- Course: Unleashing Your Multicultural Ministry

### **In the coming year:**

- I look forward continuing and deepening Theme-Based Ministry
- to continuing to work with the Board on strategic planning and leadership development.
- Building the Church Services Ministry Team and Pastoral Care Teams
- Continue to build a strong staff team
- Expanding use of multimedia
- Working with Vibrant Communities Calgary on implementation of the Enough for All (poverty reduction) initiative
- Visioning ways to diversify our income streams
- Looking at governance and ways to simplify

This report serves as a glimpse of the diversity and engagement I have as a parish minister serving this amazing congregation. I feel so very fortunate to be here and to be sharing this ministry with you.

With deep respect and abiding faith.

Namaste - Debra

## **Music Director's Report**

**Choirs and ensembles.** Our largest choir, UUphonia, had 45 singing members in the 2015-2016 church year. UUphonia sang approximately twice each month in worship services from September through June. Our Multigenerational Choir had three rehearsal sessions of three weeks each over the church year, with good participation from singers of all ages. Chor Vida, our auditioned chamber choir, came into its own this season with a total membership of ten experienced choristers. TriUU (Leslie Buckle, Ev Dewar and Brandis Purcell) made regular contributions to all things musical at the church. Thanks to all of the singers for a fine year of music-making.

**Cabaret 2016.** “Music at the Old Town Hall” was based on an original script by Brandis Purcell and included pre-taped video featuring actors from our church community. Multimedia coordinator Hendrik Schaink helped our volunteer film crews to produce the videos, and said that this year’s Cabaret used every inch of our church’s AV capacity --- an interesting test of the system. Thanks to the UUphonia choristers and friends who cheerfully contributed performances, the house band that included pianist Melissa Lebo and bassist Cora Castle, MC Sheila Ward, AV crew members Barry Wilkinson, Jim Washbrook and Hendrik Schaink, graphic designer Corinna Nielson, the Cabaret Creative Team, and the Cabaret Production Team and associated volunteers for their terrific contributions.

**Sunday-morning music.** It was a good and interesting year of music-making at the church, which saw me working with three different ministers (Rev. Debra Faulk, Rev. Carly Gaylor, and intern minister Danielle Webber) and appreciating the differences in their musical preferences and styles. Guest musicians from outside our church community included singer-songwriter Bill Bourne and Persian-Canadian instrumentalist Vafa Abid. Our Tribute Band contributed mightily to the creation of three “Spirituality Of” music services about Artisan, Buffy Sainte-Marie, and Nina Simone. The Spirit Jam format introduced by Rev. Carly Gaylor gave me the opportunity to do a music and poetry presentation that featured the work of Pulitzer-Prize-winning poet Mary Oliver. And as has become tradition, Brandis Purcell and I took the final Sunday in June for a Good Old Fashioned Hymn Sing, which drew a fine crowd of congregational singers.

**Committee work.** I served as an *ex officio* member of the Church Services Committee and of the Music Committee. Thanks to all the committee members for their fine collaborative work this year.

Respectfully submitted by Music Director Jane Perry, October 14, 2016.

## Music Committee Report

The Music Committee works under the guidance of Jane Perry, UCC Music Director, with a mandate to assist with UCC concert production. Concert production refers to all concerts, except for Cabaret, involving Jane Perry, UUphonia, or featured guest musicians. With Jane Perry as *ex officio* Music Committee member responsible for all matters artistic (concert content, programming logistics, artist liaison, promotional event announcements, and negotiating honoraria) the Music Committee assumes the following administrative responsibilities: event promotion, tickets (production, distribution, and sales), venue and hospitality logistics (venue preparation and take-down, reception food and beverage, community liaison), volunteer recruitment and appreciation, financial monitoring, and concert summary reporting.

Jane Perry’s vision and talent allowed us to produce the following concert season:

- *Jazz with Jane and Friends!* (Oct. 30, 2015) created a fabulous evening of jazz standards and eclectic musical offerings featuring the jazz band of Allan Merovitz (vocals), Frank Rackow (clarinet and saxophone), Cora Castle (bass), Holly Magnus (drums), and Jane Perry (piano) as well as guests: the BarberEllas and the Calgary Renaissance Singers & Players. A cash bar

with featured cocktail “Ruby My Dear” and a gratis buffet was offered during an extended intermission.

- *We Are Lights* - UUphonia’s winter concert (November 28, 2015), a concert of multi-faith music where UUphonia shone a musical light in the winter darkness. The newly-formed Chamber Choir, Chor Vida, debuted and guest accompanist Melissa Lebo was welcomed. Audience sing-alongs and a Hot Apple Cider-Tea-and-Cookie reception helped round out a heart-warming evening.
- *An Afternoon of Chamber Music* (February 7, 2016) featuring Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra cellist Tom Mirhady in his sublime annual chamber music concert with guest violinist Laurie Syers, guest pianist Jamie Syers, and pianist Jane Perry. Repertoire included a set of Beethoven variations on a theme by Mozart for cello and piano, Schumann’s Sonata in A minor for violin and piano (with cello in place of violin), and a Schubert piano trio. Reception followed.
- *A Choral Bouquet* (March 11, 2016) UUphonia and ChorVida acted as musical hosts to guest ensembles Vocal Latitudes, the BarberEllas, and One Voice Chorus. In a final massed choir number, over 100 singers took the stage. Reception followed.

Although fundraising is an important goal for the Music Committee, we ultimately strive to create a welcoming atmosphere and an uplifting experience for our guests. With the invaluable help of 50 volunteers, just over \$4000 was raised. The inspired musical talent and leadership skills of Jane Perry and the superb calibre of guest musicians invited to perform at UCC allows Music Committee members to feel honoured to serve and be part of these artistic, community outreach events.

Respectfully submitted, Jamie Davison – Chair on behalf of 2015-2016 Music Committee members Charlene Hoepfner, Dave Bradt, Hedda Zahner, Judy Osborne, Susan Drake (Board Liaison) and Jane Perry (*Ex Officio* Member and UCC Music Director)

## Nominating Committee

The role of the Nominating Committee is to identify members to serve in the elected positions at UCC: on the Board of Trustees, as well as on three of the Church committees: Lay Chaplaincy Committee, Committee on Shared Ministry, and Nominating Committee. Last year’s Nominating Committee consisted of Hazel Corcoran, Sylvia Fenn, Randie Lind, and Donna Antonio, and it filled the following positions with the volunteers named:

### Board of Trustees:

- President (1-year term): John Michell
- Vice President (1-year term): Liz Webster
- Secretary (1-year term): Kenzie Love
- Treasurer (1-year term): Bob Willson
- 1-year trustee: Jeff Webber
- 3-year trustee: Susan Drake

The 1-year positions on the Board can be repeated. In particular, the President may serve for one or two years. Given that our current President is in his second year, we need to find a new President for next year.

### Committees:

- Lay Chaplaincy Committee (3-year): Joan Riches
- Committee on Shared Ministry (3-year): Brandis Purcell
- Nominating Committee (2-year): Carol Blyth and Jeb Gaudet

We express our appreciation to all who accepted our requests to fill these roles at our Church; thanks to you all!

In the current year, the Nominating Committee needs to fill a similar set of positions: for all the Board officers, the one-year and three-year trustees, two positions on the Nominating Committee itself, and one position on each of the other two committees.

In addition, we have learned that this year's Vice President, Liz Webster resigned in late September. Thanks to Liz for her service in this position in its first few months. We need to fill this position as soon as possible and hope we will have done so by the congregational meeting. The person in this role will become President in May 2017.

The Nominating Committee is now made up of Carol Blyth, Hazel Corcoran, Sylvia Fenn, and Jeb Gaudet. The Nominating Committee does not have a Chair. Hazel is the Contact Person, and Jeb attends the Council of Committees for another committee and will also be the liaison for the Nominating Committee there.

Respectfully submitted,

Hazel Corcoran, Nominating Committee Contact Person

## **Physical Plant Committee**

### **Members**

Dick Wilson	Jeff Grutz	Bob McPherson	Alex Schumacher
Raymond Giroux	Christopher Fietz	Rob McMillen	David Romero
Bob Pond	Ottmar Hoch	Eric Leavitt – special projects	

### **Operation**

The committee holds work bees occasionally. Individual members or small teams also work on projects between work bees as the need arises. A wide range of technical expertise or lack thereof exists among committee members and there is a warm welcome and help for all.

The PPC enjoys by far the largest budget of any church committee, covering, as it does, all aspects of operation and maintenance of the physical plant of the church.

Currently there is no chair of PPC, although one is dearly needed. Individual members have completed projects as needed and teamed up for larger projects where more hands or collaboration were required.

### **Major Items:**

1. Repair lift numerous times ourselves after CanWest personnel failed to determine causes. Finally found that the main cause of problems was overloading of the weak floor of the lift causing failures of other components. Lift was modified to be less sensitive to this.
2. Repair of purple wheelchair ramp railing in basement after the mounts were ripped out of the floor (again).
3. Finish off Wickenden Audio-Visual cabinet.
4. Install roller blinds over Wickenden bulletin boards. (Thanks to Eric Leavitt and Marsha Haug).
5. Re-paint Wickenden walls, Panabaker entrance, touch up paint Panabaker.
6. Repair and refinish Wickenden kitchen floor.
7. Replace defective sump pump. Vacuum up water from flooded basement.
8. Build and install cash dropslot
9. Build new step and escape walkway for Wickenden lower emergency exit

### **Less Major Items:**

10. Install new de-icer cable on main entrance roof.
11. Shave down Barker entrance door to stop binding upon closing.
12. Replace rotten boards in Wickenden emergency exit steps
13. Install baby change table.
14. Re-direct eavestrough extensions to stop water coming into basement.
15. Get Panabaker storeroom light working again.
16. Build and install box to catch CYPT mail at 16 Ave. door
17. Replace old paper towel dispensers with new ones

### **Ongoing and Repetitive Items:**

18. Checking emergency lights, replacing dead batteries; checking smoke alarms, replacing batteries.
19. Replacing thermostat batteries, reprogramming thermostats.
20. Cleaning mousetraps of dead mice in basement and re-setting them.
21. Replacing furnace filters when needed. Having furnaces serviced annually.
22. Replacing burnt-out light bulbs, fixtures.
23. Exterminating ant colonies within the building.
24. Re-raking gravel on Wickenden north side to cover/protect the blueskin waterproofing on wall.
25. Repairing card table legs.
26. Putting water/organic enzymatic cleaner provided by Britech (cleaning crew) in basement floor drains to minimize bad smells
27. Unplugging sink drains, scaled-up taps
28. Many other things that are done as needed...

### **Members**

Dick Wilson, Jeff Gruttz, Bob McPherson, Alex Schumacher, Raymond Giroux, Michael Colwill, Christopher Fietz, Rob McMillen, Bob Pond, Ottmar Hoch, Emma Russell, Eric Leavitt – special projects

## **Refugee Sponsorship Committee**

Since its inception approximately one year ago, the Refugee Sponsorship Committee has become a very productive, well-organized team and accomplished a great deal. We have applied to sponsor

two families, an Iraqi couple with three children and an Ethiopian couple, and done the necessary fundraising and solicitation of donations in kind.

Though the application for the Ethiopian couple was submitted later, they have been the first to arrive. Within three weeks of their arrival, they have been permanently settled in their own apartment and started full-time language classes. They have also been on several recreational outings and experienced snow for the first time! They were enchanted by their first visit to the mountains and enthusiastically welcome new experiences of all kinds. We feel very blessed to have made the acquaintance of this kind, generous, friendly and resilient couple. We look forward to getting to know them better over the months and years to come.

The application to sponsor the Iraqi family has been approved by the Canadian government and sent to the visa office in Ankara, Turkey for processing. We have no idea how much longer this will take, but we look forward to welcoming them to Calgary in the not-too-distant future.

The outpouring of generosity from our church community and families and friends has been most heartwarming. The broad range of expertise and resources our committee members have brought to the table and their exemplary spirit of collaboration and caring have been truly inspirational. Huge Thanks to you all! Marsha Haug and Leslie Buckle, Co-Chairs

## **Social Justice**

Your Social Justice Committee (SJC) started 2016 by inviting the Calgary activist community to Wickenden Hall for a January showing of the movie “This Changes Everything,” by Avi Lewis and Naomi Klein. By co-ordinating publicity with Green Sanctuary Committee and the Council of Canadians, as well as using social media and available print media, we attracted more than 120 people. Our community was re-acquainted with many longtime activist friends, attracted some new friends, and netted \$650 for the church.

SJC remains focussed on Indigenous themes. In November 2015, we awarded the first (recent) internal William Irvine Award to UCC’s own William (Bill) Wuttunee, although posthumously. In spring, we presented another movie with GS and COC support, “Elder in the Making,” about two youths, one Indigenous and one a Chinese immigrant, exploring Alberta landscapes and history.

SJC requested and received a committee budget. Bruce Godwin stepped down as Chair to pursue more humanist studies. Penney Kome became Chair. We rented a bicycle-driven cart to carry the Pride Rainbow Banner in the September 2015 parade. That worked so well that we rented two of them for 2016, and we got to show our banner and march in the middle too. Penney Kome wrote a “4 Questions” column for the Quest from January to June 2016, on behalf of SJC, interviewing some of UCC’s activist members who are often absent. Penney has been keeping members informed of upcoming political actions by posting events to UCC’s Facebook page.

In May, Susan organized a breakfast meeting on behalf of SJC so that CUSJ members could participate in the Ottawa CUSJ general meeting. Calgary was the only place to join the webcast as a group. Many thanks to Christopher Feitz and Hendrik Schaink for their technical help through the year.

Respectfully submitted, Penney Kome, Chair

## **Stewardship Committee**

The Stewardship Committee completed two separate canvasses between August 2015 and July 2016. The need for 2 campaigns was precipitated by the church changing its financial year end and the need for aligning the pledge commitments to the budget cycle.

### **Campaign for January 1, 2016 to July 31, 2016**

The work on the first campaign was took place between September 2015 and December 2015 and was for the 7month period January 1, 2016 to July 31, 2016. The committee for this effort consisted of Greg O'Neill, Duff Bond, Donna Antonio, Bob Willson, Eric Leavitt, Danielle Webber and Rev. Debra Faulk. John and Marie Collins and Carl Svoboda again assisted with contacting members who are unable to attend church on a regular basis.

The results of the campaign were reported to the congregation during the December 2015 Stewardship meeting and again in the January (2016) Quest.

### **Campaign for Fiscal Year August 1, 2016 to July 31, 2017**

The second generosity campaign took place starting in February and culminating in a Commitment Sunday service when pledges were collected on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016. The committee received a great deal of help from members of the Board (Brandis Purcell and John Michell), the church Treasurer (Bob Willson) and a former member of the committee (Eric Leavitt). Rev Carly Gaylor and Danielle Webber provided the committee with guidance and provided many ideas that helped the committee develop a new approach to conducting the canvass. The members of the committee included Duff Bond, Donna Antonio and Greg O'Neill.

The committee received very positive feedback from the congregation on the personalized contact from members of the committee in the correspondence that went out. The renewal of commitment service on April 3<sup>rd</sup> was also very popular.

### **2016-17 Campaign Results**

The results of the campaign came up short because of the loss of 17 pledging households over the previous 18 months. Most households pledged about the same as they had previously, but there were not enough new pledging households to make up for the long-time pledgers who had been lost through death, ill health, moving away, and financial difficulties.

A second appeal had to be made by President John Michell, for increased pledges. About \$16,000 more was gathered, but as almost \$10,000 of that was designated "one-time donations", it does not truly represent pledges that we might expect to continue.

To provide clarity for comparative purposes, the results of the latest 12-month generosity campaign for pledges made for August 1, 2016 to July 31, 2017 are compared to last full 12-month campaign with pledges made for January to December 2015.

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016/17</b>
Number of Pledges	116	111
Amount pledged	189,900	193,210
Average Pledge, \$	1,645	1,741
Median Pledge, \$	1,290	1,200

### **Changes in the Number of Pledge Units**

The number of pledge units for 2016/17 compared to 2015 decreased from 116 to 111. Here is a summary of the overall changes in pledges from the 2015 to 2016/17 campaigns.

Changes in pledge numbers	Number
Increased	40
Unchanged	40
Decreased but still pledged	18
New pledges	13

The following chart shows the percentage distribution of pledges by amount pledged. It is included to demonstrate the shifting pattern of pledging as the number of people pledging decreases because of serious illness, death, moving to a different location or reduced financial circumstances, the amount being pledged is increasing.

Submitted by Duff Bond and Greg O'Neill

### **SWEET Report December, 2016**

Each Sunday Service we gather together in Community and Fellowship to celebrate our diversity and share our spiritual journey. Ensuring this opportunity requires support from our community in the form of volunteers. We have opportunities to serve each other by greeting newcomers, making and

serving coffee, ushering, and preparing Panabaker and Wickenden for the service. Volunteering in a role on Sunday is one way we can support our community and get to know each other.

SWEET continued in the 2015- 2016 church year as in previous years, but with the SWEET Leadership noticing a definite and continual decline in volunteers in the South and West. This proved to be quite frustrating for the Leaders involved, and so the SWEET Leadership met in June to evaluate how we provide service on Sunday mornings and begin the process of re- imagining the SWEET system.

In order to address two major issues: difficulty recruiting enough volunteers in certain areas and at certain times, and a need for greater consistency in the various functions, we decided to change the teams from location- based to function- based. We had a meeting in late August, and identified four major functions- coffee, welcome, ushering, and service preparation. (There are other small duties like laundry, bringing refreshments and caring cards that will not have links.) Sound room has its own system. We will continue to use a web-based sign-up system, with links for each function. Job descriptions will stay the same. September will be taken care of by the existing SWEET Leadership. We'll be contacting people to see where they would like to help.

There is a Leader for each of the functional teams, who will be responsible for monitoring the teams and the function. Sign-up will be ongoing, and for the whole 10 months- each person to choose which dates they will be able (and willing) to volunteer. Through our weekly *eNews*, we encouraged church attendees to do their part and sign up on one or more of the links.

If you wish to volunteer, you can use the following links to sign up online:

UCC Service Preparation	<a href="http://signup.com/go/bsjoDv">http://signup.com/go/bsjoDv</a>
UCC Coffee	<a href="http://signup.com/go/XUEv3z">http://signup.com/go/XUEv3z</a>
UCC Ushers	<a href="http://signup.com/go/jUuaKF">http://signup.com/go/jUuaKF</a>
UCC Welcomers	<a href="http://signup.com/go/bAQ6Wa">http://signup.com/go/bAQ6Wa</a>

Respectfully submitted,

Brandis Purcell

## Technology Group

In the past year, the technology group included: John Michell, Jim Washbrook, Ned Leavitt, Christopher Fietz (chair), Jeff Webber (resigned Summer 2016), and Corinna Nielson (resigned November 2015).

Our focus continues to be maintaining the computers, server, printers, wireless access points, surveillance cameras, and providing support for the church staff and congregants using this equipment. This year we confirmed the mandate of the group. The group refined how we use our online problem tracking system and rolled out using this system to the staff. We experimented with holding our meetings online. We installed new workstations for the Director of Religious Education, and the Finance group, and we, Jim standardized these workstations on Windows 10 and Office 2016. Mich was particularly helpful when as Debra transitioned to her Mac computer. We implemented routine for making backups of our central server. We tested equipment and procedure for switching to a wireless internet backup solution for when the church's main internet connection fails. When

the security cameras were failing in bad weather whether the problem was traced back to a lack of weather proofing of the outside cables to the cameras.

In late October 2016, the Unitarians Calgary web site was hacked. Ann Kyle (who maintains the site), after consulting with Mich, had an outside consultant fix the site.

Ongoing work for the group includes:

- Implementing a solution for single-sign on to our network to make working with our computer network easier for our staff and volunteers (Hendrik Schaink has been helping us with this),
- Finding a VPN access solution for remote access to our network (Power Church),
- Automating backups of our workstations and our central server, and
- Adding security certificates to protect the integrity of the Unitarians Calgary web site.

Submitted by Christopher Fietz

## **Wayside Pulpit Committee Report 2015-16**

The Wayside Pulpit Committee is, as the name suggests, responsible for the Wayside Pulpit - the large sign mounted on the outside of the building, which features a different message each month.

The Committee consists of Marie Collins, Debra Faulk, Jeb Gaudet, Mary Jane Hussey, Ann Kyle, and Patrick Sweet. Each month the committee pools suggestions for the Wayside Pulpit message, based on the theme of the month. Through informal voting, we arrive at a suitable message - something appropriate, meaningful, and succinct. Sometimes we draw from the existing library of nearly 60 messages, while other times we design and create a new sign. In the past year, Jeb created five new signs that are now part of the collection.

If you have a fondness for a well-turned phrase, an interest in wise words, or a penchant for quotable quotes, consider joining us on the Wayside Pulpit Committee.

Submitted by Jeb Gaudet