

Annual Report
August 2017 – July 2018



Annual Report
September 1, 2017 – July 31, 2018

Table of Contents

Adult Religious Exploration (ARE)	3
Board of Trustees	3-4
Caring.....	5
Children and Youth Religious Exploration (CYRE) Program.....	6-8
Co-Op Gift Card Fundraising Program	8
Endowment Trust Fund.....	9
Finance	10
History and Archives	11
Lay Chaplaincy	12
Membership.....	13
Minister's Report.....	14-16
Music Director's Report	16-18
Physical Plant.....	19-20
Refugee Sponsorship	20
Stewardship.....	214
Technology Group	21

Adult Religious Exploration

ARE programs include:

Programs and Groups

- Truth, Healing & Reconciliation – facilitator’s training
- Dances of Universal Peace

Programs and Groups under Minister’s Leadership

- Theme-based Listening Circle
- Theology on Tap
- Turn of the Wheel

Programs and Groups offered by other committees including:

- Music Committee and Director
- Caring
- Church services
- Green Sanctuary
- Membership
- Young Adult
- Social Justice
- Laughter Yoga
- Dances of Universal Peace
- Needlecrafters
- Laughter Yoga
- Dances of Universal Peace
- Needlecrafters

A special thank you to Lynn Nugent, Ronni Joy, Sheila Ward and Rebekah Mosley-Kasner for their ongoing commitment to leading programs and groups.

Interest and support for coordination and overall planning is needed to foster a broader diversity of successful programs and groups. Surprisingly enough, time commitment is low.

Board of Trustees

After the May 2017 Congregational Meeting, the Board of Trustees consisted of: Ned Leavitt, President; John (Mich) Michell, Vice-President; Kenzie Love, Secretary; Leslie Buckle, Treasurer; and Trustees Fay Giroux, Susan Drake, Hazel Corcoran and Jeb Gaudet. Ned Leavitt took a leave of absence in the fall and Mich acted as President during that time.

As of the following Congregational Meeting, the Board members included: Ned Leavitt, President; Mary-Anna Louise Kovar, Vice-President; Alex Russell, Secretary; Leslie Buckle, Treasurer; and Trustees Susan Drake, Hazel Corcoran, and Alex Schumacher. One position was vacant. Ned

resigned from the Board for health reasons and Mary-Anna Louise was appointed President in his place.

The Board met monthly to deal with the business of the congregation, including policy and procedural matters, staffing, contracts, and special projects, as well as monitoring and decision-making regarding finances, including budget recommendations. We also planned celebratory events including the Panabaker Award ceremony and luncheon (at which we honoured recipients Brandis Purcell and Jane Ebbern), the Irvine Award ceremony at which Susan Gillies of the Calgary Women's Centre was the recipient, and the annual Stampede Breakfast. We also held a Board – Staff holiday party in December.

One of the year's highlights was the implementation of the Visual Identity project. This resulted in a new logo, signage, and templates for letterhead, posters, and electronic messaging. This project was ably managed by an ad hoc committee consisting of Jane Ebbern, Duff Bond, Mich Michell, and Mary Jane Hussey. Through designated donations, we were able to hire a Social Media Coordinator who has done important work publicizing Calgary Unitarians' work and activities.



The Western Fall Regional Gathering of the Canadian Unitarian Council, which we hosted, was very successful, both in terms of learning, connecting, and financially, as the church benefitted from a share of the surplus.

Thanks to all staff and volunteers for their dedication and efforts on behalf of Calgary Unitarians over the past year!

(Postscript: There have been additional changes at the Board of Trustees since the year-end. In October 2018, both Sabrina del Ben and Pam Rickey were appointed to the Board. Shortly thereafter, Susan Drake whose new full-time teaching job is very busy, submitted her resignation from the Board which was regretfully accepted. The Board is very appreciative to Susan for her many contributions and welcomes Sabrina and Pam as new Trustees!)

Caring Committee

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.
- 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.
- On the fourth Sunday of every month we have soup and buns following the service. A sign-up sheet is placed on the bulletin board in Wickenden Hall where people sign up to bring soup and buns or bread and sign up to help with set up and cleaning following the meal. We have been doing this for approximately a year and appears to be enjoyed by all.
- 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.
- 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 give out blessing bags to members and those who 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.
- We provide hospitality for functions such as "Celebrations of Life", etc.
- Our community garden project had 17 gardens planted this year. It was a very successful year with approximately 20 lbs of vegetables going to the food bank, feeding approximately 100 people.

Children and Youth Religious Exploration (CYRE) Program

Professional Development Completed by DRE Sheila MacMaster

- Western Regional Fall Gathering, October 2017, Calgary, AB. I contributed as a consultant for the WRFG children's program and Youth Con.
- LREDA (Liberal Religious Educators Conference), November 2017, Denver, Colorado, where I completed the Multicultural Renaissance module.
- OWL Grades 7-12 Facilitator Training in Ottawa, July 2018.

New CYRE Initiatives

- First year for Class Lead staff, created job descriptions, advertised, interviewed, hired, trained, managed turn over and supervised CYRE staff.
- Increased CYRE Committee from one member to eight members. Lead monthly CYRE Committee meetings.
- Changed from a "one room school house" model to age appropriate division with Nursery (0-2), Explorers (3-7) and Elementary (8 to 11).
- Wickenden CYRE display board to connect the congregation with the children's activities.
- "Children and Youth Activities Update" as part of the Sunday Time for All Ages to connect the adults with the children and youth programming.
- Quiet Space Tents in both Room 1 for Elementary and Room 3 for Explorers, and a designated quiet space for Youth outside Room 8.
- Free Book Library in Room 1.
- Birthday party initiative to encourage children to celebrate their birthday at the Calgary Unitarians. Standard booking fees or equal volunteer hours accepted.

CYRE Space Improvements

- Children's Coat Area: created a named space for the children to hang their coats and name tags for a sense of ownership.
- Room 7: Reorganization and new furniture to create meeting space, a Lay Chaplain Library, CYRE Library, Adult RE Library and Games Room.
- Room 4: Reorganization and new furniture to create a permanent OWL classroom space, including a TV for educational programming.
- Rooms 1, 2 & 3: Updated Explorers, Elementary and Nursery space, including improved safety and organization of age appropriate items.
- Room 8: New couch for the Youth.

Seasonal Pageant (December 2017)

- An adaptation of the “The Littlest Christmas Tree”, a huge thank you to all our amazing children, youth and volunteers who helped make our pageant a wonderful all ages experience.

Bearers of Light Program (January to May 2018)

- January to May 2018, each week a new family took home the Bearers of the Light Basket to support spiritual practise at home. The basket included a chalice, candles, inspirational books and a journal to record their experience. The following Sunday they passed the “light” onto the next family. Everyone who signed up to be a Bearer of the Light was entered a draw to win their very own Bearer of the Light Basket.

Secret Mystery Buddy Program (March to April 2018)

- Matched 26 children, youth and adults to exchange secret letters, with code names based on Famous UU’s including our own William Wuttunee. Identities were revealed, and buddies connected at a Mad Hatter inspired Tea Party for 38 people (Buddies and Families).
- New! “Secret Congregational Buddy” where two clues were given during the service each week describing someone in our own congregation. The first person to guess the identity of the “Secret Congregational Buddy” won the song of their choice to be performed on a following Sunday.

CYRE Family Camp (July 13 - 16, 2018)

- Hosted April 2018 Souper Sunday and successfully raised funds for CYRE Family Camp so that everyone could attend regardless of financial ability.
- Camp had over 40 participants, who stayed in tents, campers, or fully equipped train car sleepers. There were train rides, prairie walks, campfires, swimming, potlucks and lots of fun!

Children

Curriculum based on the Tapestry of Faith as well as the pillars of Social Justice, UU Values, the Environment, Spiritual Self-Care and Multicultural and Faith exploration. Thank you to the many volunteers who shared their time and talents with the children.

Program Highlights:

- Volunteer led classes on Paper Art, Vegetable Art, Painting, Exercise and Self Care, Drum Circles, Dancing to honour Mother Earth, and Rangoli.
- Visits from Galaxy the Snake with Calgary Zoo presenter Laurie Lin, and Pet Access League Society with their therapy dogs.
- Celebrating Samhain, Halloween, Orange Shirt Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Winter Solstice, Love, Ostara, Easter, St. Patrick's Day, Earth Day, Mother's Day and Father's Day.
- The Gift of Giving: Making Gifts for Everyone December 2017
- Mini-Climb for Wilderness at the Calgary Unitarians, May 2018.
- Children's Art Show in Wickenden, June, July and August 2018.
- Children's Strawberry Garden, Spring/Summer 2018
- Children's choice 4 Others: April 2018 - Pet Access League Society.

Youth

Curriculum "Coming of Age" with Journal "To This I Give My Heart" activities.

- Youth Con: October 26th -28th, 2018, Calgary, AB
- Youth led service June 17th, 2018
- Youth Movie Night June 2018
- Youth Fundraisers: Multicultural Calendars and hosted February 2018 Souper Sunday
- Youth choice 4 Others March 2018 – Meow Foundation

Sheila MacMaster, Director of Religious Education

Co-op Gift Card Fundraising Program, August 2017 – July 2018

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%. These percentages have been in effect since May 2016; previously they were more favourable for the church.

During the fiscal year of August 2017 to July 2018 the Co-op Gift Card program raised a total of \$6,004.00 for the church. This amount is slightly higher than last year.

Your team: Ev Dewar, Sheila Ward, and Alex Russell, Barbara Lane.

The Endowment Trust Fund (ETF)

In the fiscal year ending July 31, 2018, the total assets of the church's Endowment Trust Fund (ETF) increased to \$440,992. The total amount of donations to the ETF received during from members and friends of the church during the fiscal year was \$1,829 and the total amount of investment income received was \$13,551. Under the current practice, the amount to be transferred from the ETF to the church operating budget in the current fiscal year (August 1, 2018 to July 31, 2019) will be \$12,196 (= 90% of \$13,551).

The professional investment management firm of the CUC continues to manage the investments of our ETF as part of the much larger CUC National Fund. We therefore, benefit from the broad diversification of the fund and their adherence to socially responsible investment guidelines.

Keeping the ETF funds under management of the CUC National Fund is working well and is freeing up the ETF trustees to concentrate more on publicizing the ETF. Donations from members and friends of the Calgary Unitarians are very much appreciated, and we will continue to encourage members to consider bequeaths in their wills to the Endowment Trust Fund and to make gifts in memory of or in celebration of people and events.

The trustees of the ETF for the 2017-18 fiscal year were John Collins, Ann Kyle and Bob Willson. Ann will not be continuing as an ETF trustee in 2018-19. However, Leslie Buckle is joining John and Bob as a third trustee in 2018-19. The ETF can have up to five trustees, so that any Calgary Unitarian members who have an interest in serving as an ETF trustee in 2018-19 should speak to one of the current trustees.

The trustees acknowledge the very helpful involvement of Jane Ebbern (a former ETF trustee and committee chair, and current President of the CUC). Jane has brought forward a proposal for the Calgary Unitarians (following the lead of the CUC) to use a 5-year return of investment performance average, (considering all returns whether interest, dividend or capital), less the rate of inflation as the amount of which 90% would be contributed to the church operating budget each year.

In arguing in favor of her proposal, Jane writes: "Taking a 5-year average smooths out the ETF operating budget contribution so that there aren't large fluctuations year to year and makes the calculation very objective and transparent. And this method would substantially increase the subsidy of the church operating funds by the ETF, while still preserving the inflation protected capital base. Like the larger CUC fund, donations and bequeaths to our Calgary fund would be the primary way of substantially increasing the value of our ETF over time". So far, there have been only some informal initial discussions of Jane's proposal. However, it is the intent of the ETF Committee to initiate debate on Jane's proposal soon, as part of a general review of whether the current terms of reference for the annual transfer of ETF funds to the church need revision and/or clarification. Subsequently, any proposed alteration of the written terms of reference of the ETF would need to be brought to the Board of Trustees, and later to the congregation, for discussion and approval.

Submitted by John Collins, Chair of the ETF Committee

Finance Committee

Members: Leslie Buckle, Eric Leavitt, John Collins, Bob Willson, Bob Pond, John “Mich” Michell, Libby Kasner

Over the past year, the Finance Committee engaged in the following activities:

Financial Statement: Coordinated the preparation of the statement for the year ending July 31, 2017, recruited the reviewers, facilitated the review and helped prepare the statement package and remarks for presentation to the December Congregational Meeting.

Budget 2018-19: Developed the budget in conjunction with Council of Committees and submitted a recommendation to the Board of Trustees for presentation at the Congregational Meeting in May 2018.

Electronic Payroll System: Contracted with ADP Ltd. to provide automated payroll services for staff. In addition to issuing monthly pay through our First Calgary account, ADP remits taxes and benefits monies to the CRA monthly, issues employees’ T4’s annually, and provides records of employment when employees leave, thus reducing the work of the UCC volunteers.

Rental Reboot: A sub-committee began the process of investigating our rental rates and policies. At the recommendation of the sub-committee, Finance Committee moved to charging by the hour and implemented rent increases for regular tenants. We have also developed a quarterly invoicing system. We also hope to increase rentals by better advertising the availability of our space through the new website, when completed, and through using an on-line tool, SpaceFinder. This work will continue in 2018-19.

Expanding Use of Electronic Payment Systems

Set up a system whereby Co-op cards can be purchased by means of electronic transfers. Electronic transfers can also be used for other purposes including donations and rent payments. We have also obtained a Square so that we can accept credit cards payments for tickets to events.

Roles and Responsibilities

We reviewed the roles and responsibilities of treasurer, accountant, receivers, and bookkeeper in preparation for redefining the role of the bookkeeper to provide reimbursements in a timelier manner and reduce the burden on volunteers.

Submitted by Leslie Buckle

History and Archives Committee

Members: Loretta Biasutti (Chair), Jim Bowman (Archivist), Helen Backhouse, Frances Schaink (until her untimely death in July 2018).

Board Liaison: John Michell

NOTE: The committee is seeking new members.

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 various staff and committees.
- Began collecting materials for a history of the church choir Cabaret and the role of music in the church.
- Collected materials for inclusion in scrapbooks or for archiving.
- Met with Rev. Debra Faulk to plan activities during the 2018 anniversary year.
- Arranged for a volunteer, Grace Burwash, to prepare a slide show of church history, to be shown at anniversary celebration.
- Planned scrapbook and memorabilia display for anniversary celebration.
- Contributed articles to the Quest for eight editions in the past year. Since January 2018, in honour of the anniversary year, there has been a monthly “Historical Highlights” article in each issue of the Quest.
- Hosted an October 2017 event in conjunction with nation-wide webcast on the life of Mark Mosher DeWolfe.

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.

Goals for the coming year:

- Participate in the Anniversary Year celebration event.
- The Committee will be going into dormancy effective January 2019, pending new volunteer involvement.

Loretta Biasutti

Lay Chaplaincy Committee

The Lay Chaplaincy committee consisted of Colleen Anderson, Joan Riches, and Meredith Simon (chair) along with the non-voting members of Lay Chaplains Carl Svoboda (until December 31, 2017), Mary Anna Louisa (starting January 1, 2018), and Bev Webber, and Rev. Debra Faulk.

Our activities included:

- Continued the search for a Lay Chaplain to replace Carl. Carl's one-year extension will be over at the end of December 2017. To this end we took part in the October 22 church service and held a lunch afterwards to give more information about Lay Chaplaincy to any interested persons.
- Revised and expanded the Lay Chaplain job description to provide a more comprehensive description of the role of Lay Chaplain.
- Reviewed and revised the fee schedule for Lay Chaplain services.
- Engaged former Lay Chaplain Mary Anna Louise Kovar for a two-year term to replace Carl while the committee continues to search for a new candidate. Took part in the February 11 service to hand over the church Lay Chaplaincy from Carl to Mary Anna Louise and to reiterate to the congregation that a Lay Chaplain candidate is being sought.
- Set up Room 7 as a space for Lay Chaplains to use.
- Provided monetary support for Bev and Mary Anna Louise to attend Lay Chaplain enrichment programs.

Respectfully submitted
Meredith Simon
Lay Chaplaincy committee chair
October 2018

Membership Committee

Members of the Committee: Barbara Lane, Duff Bond, Mary Jane Hussey, Kenzie Love, Margaret McCrae, Rev. Debra Faulk

Nine people became members in the past year and seven joined as friends. The committee continues to hold a new member recognition ceremony and breakfast twice a year. There were four deaths and six resignations due to members moving away. At the end of the year there were 165 members of record.

Mary Jane Hussey, Barbara Lane, Duff Bond, and Rev. Debra offered two Introduction to Unitarian Universalism workshops, in October 2017 and April 2018 for a total of 12 people.

The committee resumed the responsibility of scheduling volunteers to staff the Welcome Table on Sunday mornings. This had been under SWEET team leadership for several years.

The committee supported Rev. Debra in holding the Minister's Young Adult Dinner in September 2017. Sixteen people attended.

The committee held 2 long term member recognition ceremonies, honouring 15-20 year and 10-15-year members. Thanks to Jeb Gaudet for name tag creation.

For the fifth year, the committee organized Operation Cookie, the delivery of Christmas cards and cookies to 'seldom seen' members of the church.



Membership hosted the Strawberry Tea in June and invited many long-time members and friends to enjoy tea and real strawberry shortcake while they chatted with friends. About forty people attended, some sporting lovely hats for the occasion!

New initiatives: post service discussions were piloted.

Numbers of members:

2014 – 169

2015 – 160

2016 – 160

2017 – 166

2018 – 165

Submitted by Barbara Lane and Duff Bond.

Minister's Report

I write this report as I begin my ninth year serving UCC, while reflecting on year eight.

Staff Supervision: It is an honour and a privilege to work with this amazing staff team. I encourage and hope everyone will offer appreciation whenever possible to this incredible team.

Music Director ~ Jane Perry completes her 7th year - words cannot even begin to express the gratitude I have for the shared ministry we do together. Her collegiality, leadership, creativity, sense of humour and calm presence is a gift to me personally, the staff team and the congregation.

Director of Religious Education ~ (Children & Youth) Sheila MacMaster, joined the staff team in August as the Interim Director of Religious Education. She implemented the changes recommended through consultation with RE Committee and parents to hire RE class leads which meant a shift in the DRE's position with more supervisory duties. As she was working with the previous year's budget, she was willing to decrease DRE hours from 25 to 20 with the resources of the 5 hours being directed to the Class lead hires. This position had been a 28 hour a week position until the previous DRE wanted only 25. We were able to increase Sheila to 22 hours midway through the year. Sheila's has been so competent and successful in the role that the Board affirmed hiring her for the permanent position in May. Her skills, passion, enthusiasm and commitment are so welcome. Sheila continues to grow into the position and takes advantage of professional development when possible. Her permanent status has allowed for some significant long-range planning. I will continue to advocate for the hours to be brought back to at least 28 per week – which is at least closer to what she consistently works. Welcome Sheila!!!

Office Administrator ~ Martha Mantikoski is now into her fourth year with us and continues to grow the position, offering valuable suggestions for increasing revenues, managing renters and publications. One of the greatest challenges to her position is uninterrupted time to complete tasks. In trying to address this issue, she now spends Thursday mornings working from her home office. This has been a great success. With the hiring of a very part-time Maintenance Support Person (MSP) she has taken on supervision of the MSP.

Maintenance Support Person ~ Arno Buruma – was hired for this 5 hour per week position and has been such an asset. He is supervised by the Office Administrator.

Social Media Coordinator ~ Holly Noelle – recognizing the importance of social media the Visual Identity Team has used some of their resources to fund this position 5 hours per month. The value was recognized and funding it added to next year's budget.

Board & Board Sub-Committees:

- **Board** – challenging year in many ways - not having a full complement of members, illness leading to resignation as well as conflicts and concerns that took much energy. There is a recognition that we need a Human Resource Team
- **Visual Identity** – new signage, new logo, new emails addresses and web domain.

Pastoral Care ~ Many people come to me with their different needs and issues, and I make hospital visits. I have conducted several unique services which include: six Memorial Services, four of which were for members; two requests; a family wedding and two Child Dedications.

COSM – Committee on Shared Ministry ~ These folks are amazing – conducted very useful evaluation of the minister; dealing with some ongoing conflicts; creating an overall congregational evaluation; I am so impressed with the integrity and diligence of these people!!

Church Services

- “Worship Arts Team” is the new name for the Church Services Ministry Team that was created to enhance lay presence during services and offer learning/growth experience for those committing to the team. New people have expressed interest. Very Successful.
- Continue to work with Theme- Based ministry, editing Reflections monthly, training facilitators for TLCs and facilitating their TLC

Wider Community

- Calgary Alliance for the Common Good – Board; president of IAF Canada; member of the Reconciliation Team
- Calgary Interfaith Council representative of UCC & co-chair of Social Justice group
- Steering team of UN Interfaith Harmony Week
- Volunteer with Walking with Our Sisters

Denominational Involvement

CUC (Canadian Unitarian Council) — attended Western Regional Gathering (Calgary) & CUC AGM (Hamilton); elected by UUMOC as Minister Observer to the CUC Board (term complete May 20),

UU Ministers of Canada – elected Minister Observer to the CUC Board

UU Ministers Association:

- Chosen as one of 4 Canadian Good Officers;
- Serve as a clergy Coach and Mentor for a new minister in Preliminary Fellowship
- Invited to serve on Collegial Development Team (begin Sept/18 after CUC MOB term)

Professional Development

- **2 workshops using Parker Palmer's Circles of Trust**
- **UUMA Institute for Excellence in Ministry (22/1/18-26/1/18) – 5-day** workshop “Think like a Filmmaker: Sensory-Rich Worship Design for Unforgettable Messages
- **Transylvania Pilgrimage (5/7/18-12/7/18)**

In the coming year:

- Continue to work with the Board on leadership development and Right Relations.
- Continue to build a strong staff team
- Visioning ways to diversify our income streams

This report serves as a glimpse of the broad engagements 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

***UUpheonia** continued its practice of singing twice each month, on average, in morning services, and contributed a winter concert and two Cabaret performances to the church's fundraising efforts. The group had approximately 40 singing members in the 2017-2018 church year. Special appreciation to choir music librarians Sheila Ward and Judy Osborne.

***Chor Vida** has a singing membership that includes experienced choral singers from both our church community and Calgary Renaissance Singers & Players. The group rehearses on an as-needed basis in preparation for church services and special events. Chor Vida's main annual event is the Christmas Eve service.

***Coffee Choir** was born out of the ashes of the Multigenerational Choir, when it became apparent that the folks who most wanted to join a choir in which everyone gets to sing the tune were some of our congregation's older members, who happen to have available time on weekdays to come and sing. The inaugural session of Coffee Choir ran as an experiment on Tuesday afternoons from February 13 through 27, 2018. The concept of coffee time followed by an hour of singing proved successful, and Coffee Choir is now a part of the regular musical programming at Calgary Unitarians, with autumn and spring sessions of three weeks each.

***Tribute Band** was largely inactive in the 2017-2018 season. The band offered a house concert as a Service Auction item, and in June 2018 the Tribute Band performed at the home of Dave Werkland and Sue Norman to an appreciative crowd. Band members in that performance were vocalists Hedda Zahner, Maurice McAtamney and Sheila MacMaster, with bassist Cora Castle, drummer Sarah Nielsen, and me at the piano.

***TriUU** is our much-loved, self-directed a cappella vocal trio whose members are Leslie Buckle, Ev Dewar, and Brandis Purcell. Thanks to TriUU for always being game to do more singing at church events.

***Ukuleteers** is a new musical ensemble at Calgary Unitarians, founded and capably directed by Brandis Purcell. In the 2017-2018 church year, the Ukuleteers provided the live music at our April Fool's Day/Easter morning service, with positive feedback from those in attendance.

Sunday-Morning and Special-Service Musical Guests

Guests from outside of our church community included Jazz on The Side and the BarberEllas. On the May long weekend, the Sunday service was a well-received one-hour concert by HYMN, a collection of Calgary musicians (including Frank Rackow) who perform music from across the Middle East. Guests from within our community included TriUU, the Ukuleteers, and pianist Samer Khaldi. Also, pianist Leslie Buckle was once again superb as my stand-in on my Sundays-off.

Music Fundraising Concerts

Please refer to the Concert Production Team's report. My warm thanks and enduring appreciation to team leader Charlene Hoepfner and team members Linda Brown, Donna Ontario, Judy Osborne, and Hedda Zahner, the last of whom stepped off the team at the end of the 2017-2018 season.

Other Music Events and Activities

***Christmas Eve “Unitarian Lessons & Carols” service** once again saw Chor Vida present a number of seasonal anthems in a service that included congregational singing, stories, and our annual romp through “The Twelve Days of Christmas” with props.

***The Spirit Sings** music services last church year included subjects Ella Fitzgerald (with Jazz on The Side), Sweet Honey in the Rock (with the BarberEllas), and Canadian fiddler player Oliver Schroer (Bernie Amell’s choice from his Service Auction win.) There was also a September service called “Healing Voices” that included meditative music sung by the four-person choir of Cora Castle, Ev Dewar, Hedda Zahner, and me.

***Cabaret 2018.** Due to a late Board request to move Cabaret away from the date of the annual May congregational meeting, our 2018 Cabaret was a full six weeks earlier than usual, taking place on March 16 and 17, 2018. Seeing as this was the St. Patrick’s Day weekend, UUphonia cheerfully decided to perform “A Celtic Cabaret”, and a good time was had by all. Huge thanks to all the choristers for working so hard in a tight schedule to get all the music learned and concert-ready. Thanks to the Cabaret Creative Team (Christopher Fietz, Ned Leavitt, Brandis Purcell, and Katharine Steven), the Cabaret Production Team (Liz Blackstock, Linda Brown, Ev Dewar, Eric Leavitt, Marsha Haug, and Sandra Vida), the Cabaret Technical Crew (Christopher Fietz, Hendrick Schaink, Jim Washbrook, and Barry Wilkinson), Cabaret bassist Cora Castle, Cabaret emcee Sheila Ward, the dozens of Cabaret volunteers, and especially to the singers of UUphonia and TriUU for a fantastic weekend.

***The May long-weekend concert as a morning service.** For the first time, Calgary Unitarians replaced its Sunday-morning service on the May 2018 long weekend with a one-hour concert, performed by the members of HYMN. The concept proved so successful that the worship team is planning another concert as the morning service on May 19, 2019.

***All-Choir morning service.** On Sunday, May 27, 2018, UUphonia and Chor Vida presented an all-music morning service, including lots of congregational singing and several choral anthems. We plan to make this an annual tradition on the last Sunday in May.

***Good Ol’ Fashioned Hymn Sing!** This is our annual service on the final Sunday in June, led by Brandis Purcell and me. It continues to be a popular service, and we will continue to run it annually.

Respectfully submitted by Music Director Jane Perry
November 10, 2018.

Physical Plant Committee (PPC)

During this past year we have hired Arno Buruma as a Maintenance Support Person. Arno has been doing an excellent job, relieving committee members of many tasks and providing support in timely and skilled fashion. He supplemented exterior wall signage work conducted mostly by the hired signage company, as did Dick Wilson. Another project completed in the past year was fabricating and installation of service content signage 'cabinet' located south of the main Barker Room / 1st St. NW facing door.

Our Sexton, Robert McDonald, has continued to provide great service; checking the church each night, shoveling snow, and putting out the garbage bins each week. We are also appreciative of the work that Martha Mantikoski does in support of the many activities that are required to maintain our building.

Our building has been showing its age and is a challenge to maintain. The PPC has undertaken many tasks in the past year, some related to improving the building, lowering operational costs or undertaking work to mitigate flooding, etc. For example, the older, soon-to-be obsolete four t-20 tube fluorescent lighting fixtures have been filled with more modern and efficient T-8 tubes, with the requisite re-wiring for the connector castles and elimination of the troublesome and noisy ballasts - a more efficient and people friendly approach than conversion to LEDs. This was Ottmar's last major project for the PPC committee before his untimely passing.

Over the past several years, foundation leaks have been an increasing problem, but the committee has developed quite an expertise in the injection of a highly economical, two component urethane foam system injected from the inside of the building to seal cracks in the walls. Two serious leaks in the last year appeared to have been wall-to-footing leaks in new locations, adding to other leaks that we had learned to live with. These wall-to-footing leaks will be addressed early in the coming year.

Considerable time and money have been spent maintaining the two lifts that are approaching the end of their lifetimes. Arno has significantly contributed to this maintenance and finding creative solutions to extend the functionality of the lifts.

Goals for the coming year include:

1. Plugging the leaks mentioned above
2. Updating the Long-Term Building Maintenance Plan with associated capital cost estimates
3. Recruiting participants to assist in maintaining the building

Submitted by Eric Leavitt, Dick Wilson and Jeff Grutz

Refugee Sponsorship Committee

On March 27, 2018, we welcomed our sponsored Iraqi family of five to Calgary. It has been gratifying to see this sponsorship come to fruition after years of waiting. Thanks to the hard work of many committee members and the generosity of our donors, they are now settled in their new fully furnished home, the children are enrolled in school and taking part in community recreational activities, and both parents are attending English classes (Pinar full-time, and as of the end of July, Tareq part-time, with the intent to resume full-time studies in the fall).

The focus of the committee's efforts over 2018-19 will be to provide additional support to family members in learning English, and to help prepare Tareq for employment or further training at the end of the formal one-year sponsorship period.

We continue to provide informal support and friendship to the first family we sponsored, the couple from Ethiopia. They continue to do well.

We wish to express our deep appreciation to the members of the committee, whose expertise, dedication and cooperative spirit have made this endeavour so successful and rewarding. New members are always welcome to join us!

Marsha Haug and Leslie Buckle, Co-chairs

Stewardship Committee

Stewardship Team Annual Report for 2017-18 (Campaign for 2019 Budget)



HEARTFELT THANKS to all who pledged financial support this year for Calgary Unitarians!

Members of the Committee: Mich Michell (Chair), Duff Bond, Anita Blackstaffe, Brandis Purcell, Rev. Debra Faulk, Leslie Buckle (Treasurer) with help from a willing group of canvassers.

The stewardship campaign for the 2018-19 budget year was called “Our Hands – Our Hearts – Our Dreams”. It was conducted during March and April 2018. Results were announced at the Annual General Meeting on May 6.

The campaign included surveying the congregation for their priorities for four possible “dream” initiatives. The highest rated was the Social Media Coordinator, for which funding has been allocated with the help of a directed donation. Generous directed donations have also allowed for the hiring of Children’s classroom leaders.

We received positive feedback for the personalized contact by canvassers in the correspondence that went out. The renewal of commitment service on March 25 was popular and well-attended.

The financial results: Amount pledged was about \$190,000 from 109 pledges. This was enough to create a balanced budget for 2018-19.

Submitted by Mich Michell and Duff Bond, Stewardship Team

Technology Group

In 2017-18 the Tech Team comprised Mich Michell, Jim Washbrook, Ned Leavitt, Hendrik Schaink, and Christopher Fietz (chair). Our focus continues to be maintaining the computers, servers, printers, wireless access points, surveillance cameras, and supporting the computing needs of the staff and committees using this equipment. This year we added a wireless access point and a signal booster to increase the strength of the network signal downstairs. We installed a phone in the Wickenden kitchen and upgraded the PowerChurch software to the latest version.

Submitted by Christopher Fietz