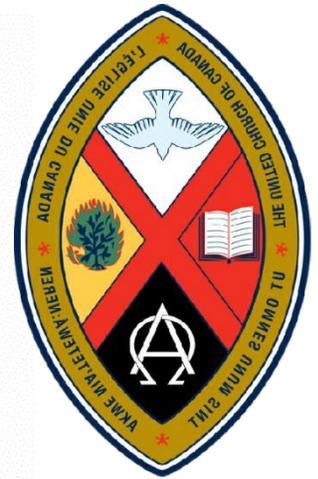


St. Paul's Eastern United Church



2017 Annual Report

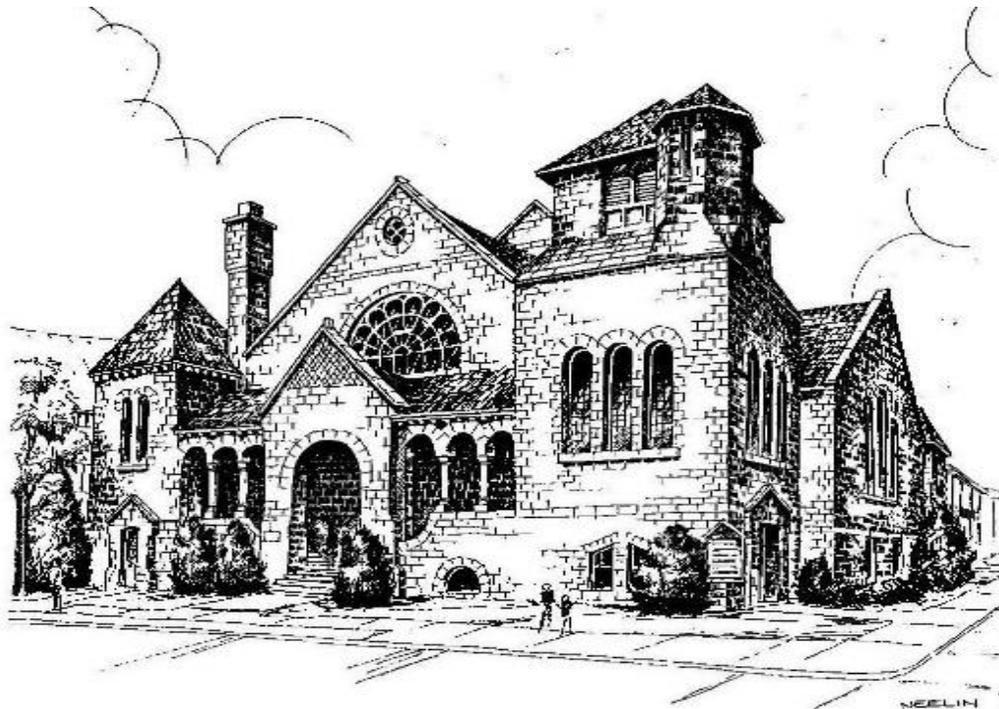


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Pastoral Letter

Finding Faith in the Storm

Luke 8:22-25 Jesus Calms a Storm

²² One day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side of the lake.” So they put out, ²³ and while they were sailing he fell asleep. A windstorm swept down on the lake, and the boat was filling with water, and they were in danger. ²⁴ They went to him and woke him up, shouting, “Master, Master, we are perishing!” And he woke up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves; they ceased, and there was a calm. ²⁵ He said to them, “Where is your faith?” They were afraid and amazed, and said to one another, “Who then is this, that he commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him?”

In so many ways this past year was experienced as a stormy sea or as a whirlwind, images that we find throughout our scriptures, whether we are remembering the plight of Job, the challenging mission given to Jonah, the poignant words of the psalmists as they express their feelings about life’s turbulence or the story of the disciples sent across the Lake by Jesus, only to find themselves sinking in a boat full of water. Early last year we faced into the reality of the viability of our congregation in this magnificent but aging church building and we heard a continuing call to pursue a relationship with the Odawa Native Friendship Centre in the spirit of the journey of reconciliation. We also remained committed to supporting other small churches by sharing our space which we did with the Eritreans until September and with the Mandarin Christian fellowship every Friday night.

This has been quite a tumultuous journey this past year since we extended an invitation early last winter to share our space with Odawa to the time when we learned in December that they had successfully received funding to establish an Early Years Centre here in the church. You can read about this journey in the Odawa Report which certainly took us through a roller coaster of emotions.

At the same time as our congregation was seeking creative ways to ensure the viability and relevance of our ministry, the United Church as a whole was determining our denomination’s viability through numerous significant changes to our polity and to our structures. Congregations and Presbyteries across Canada engaged in serious decisions that would change the way we interact with each other geographically as new Regions were being determined; how candidates and ministers would receive their support, education and call; what it would mean to be a member or adherent of the church, to name a few. During this time of confusion and change many people became anxious, withdrew from discussions, and were afraid to offer leadership.

Yet there were many whose resilient faith help to guide the process, who courageously entered the discussions and made some tough decisions. We also were very blessed as a congregation when Michelle Robichaud responded to the call to leadership in the United Church as we made a covenant with her to be a Candidate at the December meeting of Presbytery.

On all levels of our church (without even considering the changing political landscape of North America nor the historic hurricane winds) this has been a time of profound change, a turbulent time when we have reached out to God, listened for the voice of Jesus to bring calm in the midst of the storms. Even from the first words of Genesis we know that a time of chaos is part of the unfolding story of our lives and that the Spirit of Life is present in those churning waters, helping to create the new thing, shaping the new reality that will bring more abundant life. Even the disciples who answered the call to follow Jesus cried out wondering if he was asleep in the boat while the storm waters overtook them. Jesus did speak and the storm subsided, helping them to find peace and calm in their hearts and souls.

This is a powerful reminder that as we continue to listen for God's call and vision for us as the church and as individuals, God is with us in the boat, able to bring us to that still centre where we can feel encouraged, strengthened and at peace no matter where the winds of life might take us. Our call is to reach out in prayer and to lovingly support each other. In Psalm 107, when the palmist was overcome by the winds and waves and cried out to the Lord to bring stillness in the storm, he expressed thankfulness in the midst of the people for God's steadfast love and presence.

I too would like to express my thankfulness to this congregation here at St Paul's-Eastern, especially the members of the church Council, committees and the Working Group, for your leadership of resilience and faithfulness in the midst of change and uncertainty, your honesty and integrity as you express your views and feelings, your courage in taking risks to embrace new partnerships and ventures in outreach, your ongoing support for students, your grace and concern for those who are more vulnerable in our midst, whether those are people within our church family, or those who make their homes on our streets and rooming houses, and hospitality towards the tourists who join us temporarily on their journey.

A special word of gratitude for the joy I find in sharing in the leadership of worship with Paul Grose whose musical excellence, willingness to both honour our heritage as well as to challenge us with new forms of music and global rhythms; Michelle Robichaud and Elaine Gross who have nurtured our children; Tracey Wilmot and Patrick Saumur who have strengthened our life through learning how to organize our administration; for William Potts-Halpin who cleans up after the storms, maintains the beauty of this building and surprised us with vegetables amidst the flowers!

As you read this Annual Report may you all be filled with gratitude for the dreams expressed and the passion for reconciliation and new life lived out in so many ways by all of you. The storms may still come, but at the very centre is the loving Christ who will keep us calm within, always preparing us for our next adventure in life!

Submitted with hope and gratitude

Laurie

The Reverend Laurie McKnight

In Memoriam 2017 and Congregational Statistics for 2017

Number of Persons under Pastoral Care (Members & Adherents)	109
Baptisms	1
Marriages	3
Funerals	2
Communicants Received by Profession of Faith	0
Communicants Received by Transfer	2
Communicants Received by Adult Baptism	0
Communicants Removed by Death	3
Communicants Removed By Transfer	0
Communicants Removed By Council	0

Directory of Officers and Staff at Dec. 31, 2017

Ministry Team

Rev. Laurie McKnight, Minister
Paul Grose, Organist & Music Director
Elaine Grose, Children's Ministry
Coordinator

Support Staff

Patrick Saumur, Church Administrator
William Potts-Halpin, Custodian

Church Council

Nancy Thornton, Member at Large
Michelle Robichaud, Chair
Geoff McGuire – Secretary
Grant Gilliland - Property
Derek Carlisle – Presbytery
Grant Gilliland – Presbytery substitute
Patrick Wilmot – Ministry and Personnel
Jacques Renaud – Treasurer
Geoff McGuire - Trustee
Helen Smith, Pastoral Care
Rev. Laurie McKnight, (Ex Officio)
Cécile Stockemer – Outreach

Committees

Ministry & Personnel

Patrick Wilmot, Louise Reid

Property

Grant Gilliland

Pastoral Care

Helen Smith, Marg Bennett, Heather Oudit,
Betty MacKenzie, Jacques Renaud

Kitchen & Coffee

Kay Blais, Heather Oudit, Helen Link

Evergreens

Heather Oudit

Open Table Liaison

Brenna Manders

Trustees

Geoff McGuire, Nancy Thornton, Eugene
Lang, Grant Gilliland, Laurie McKnight,
Wayne MacWhirter

Volunteers

Counters

Derek Carlisle, Thomas Stowe, Brenna
Manders, Grant Gilliland, Jacques Renaud,
Sue Mowers, Frank Duern, Bernice Aye,
Jackie Potvin

Worship Planning Team

Bernice Aye: Communion Organizer,
Jackie Potvin, Linda Paul, Kay Blais,
Paul Grose

Mission Enthusiast – Bernice Aye

**St. Paul's–Eastern United Church (SPEUC)
Annual General Meeting (AGM) of March 5, 2017**

Date and Time	March 5, 2017 at 12:35 p.m. following Sunday worship
Location	SPEUC Hall
Attendance	
<p>Bennett, Marg Bergeron, Wendy Bretzke, Linda M. Carlisle, Derek Gilliland, Grant MacKenzie, Betty MacWhirter, Wayne McGuire, Geoff Moor, the Rev. John Oudit, Heather Paul, Linda Reid, Louise Renaud, Jacques Robichaud, Michelle Smith, Helen Stow, Thomas Thornton, Nancy Wilmot, Patrick Wilmot, Tracey L. York, Nancy (Church Bookkeeper) (Guest)</p>	
Opening Prayer/ Reflection	The Rev. John Moor led the members in an opening prayer.
Voting Privileges for Adherents	Motion: Be it resolved that adherents be allowed to vote at this meeting Wayne MacWhirter / Michelle Robichaud CARRIED
Chair of Meeting	Motion: Be it resolved that the Rev. John Moor be confirmed as Chair of this meeting. Grant Gilliland / Wendy Bergeron CARRIED
Recording Secretary	Motion: Be it resolved that Geoff McGuire be confirmed as recording secretary for this meeting. Michelle Robichaud / Nancy Thornton CARRIED

Approval of Minutes of 2016 AGM	<p>Motion: Be it resolved that the minutes of the 2016 AGM be approved with amendments.</p> <p>Derek Carlisle / Tracey Wilmot CARRIED</p> <p>Note: Tracey Wilmot took note of the amendments and gave them to Geoff McGuire, who later incorporated them into the electronic version of the 2017 Annual Report and returned the amended report to the church office.</p>
Approval of Minutes of Congregational Meeting of September 18, 2016	<p>Motion: Be it resolved that the minutes of the congregational meeting of September 18, 2016, be approved as written.</p> <p>Geoff McGuire / Wayne MacWhirter CARRIED</p>
Approval of Minutes of Congregational Meeting of October 16, 2016	<p>Motion: Be it resolved that the minutes of the congregational meeting of October 16, 2016, be approved as written.</p> <p>Patrick Wilmot / Michelle Robichaud CARRIED</p>
Review of Individual Reports (only those discussed are listed)	
Syrian Family	<p>Linda Paul told us that the sister-in-law of the family had written the report for privacy reasons.</p> <p>The husband had found part-time work.</p> <p>There was some concern that he was choosing to work to support his family rather than studying English.</p>
Mission and Service (M&S)	<p>Church bookkeeper Nancy York clarified that the givings in the M&S report did not match the financial statements because some money given in 2016 had been for 2015 M&S.</p>
Trustees	<p>Geoff McGuire, Chair of the Board of Trustees, briefly reviewed the financial situation of the investments in view of the major expenditures on the roof project.</p> <p>He stressed that according to the budget the unrestricted funds in our investments would not carry us to the end of 2017; we would there require permission from Ottawa Presbytery to use some of the restricted funds (proceeds from the sale of the Manse) to fund operations.</p> <p>Wendy asked if we expected blanket approval to spend the Manse funds or whether we would have to seek approval again each year. Geoff was not sure and said we would have to see what Presbytery says in its response to our request.</p>
Approval of Non-Finance Reports	<p>Motion: Be it resolved that all non-financial reports be received as written.</p> <p>Wendy Bergeron / Marg Bennett CARRIED</p>
Finance	<p>Motion: Be it resolved that the financial reports be received.</p>

	<p>Grant Gilliland / Patrick Wilmot</p> <p>Discussion: Nancy York, our bookkeeper, gave an overview of the financial statements, speaking about the differences between the two versions (internal and external). Wendy asked about the high figure for Office and Admin expenses. Nancy explained that this was double what had been budgeted because the Minister's photos had been counted against this item. Grant argued that this amount should have come out of the Memorial Fund. Nancy explained that it had, in fact, come out of the Memorial Fund but needed to be accounted for under this line item. There was a question about why Professional Fees were so much higher than budgeted. Nancy explained that the discrepancy related to the fact that some who had been expected to go on salary did not. If we add the over-budget amount for Professional Fees to the under-budget amount for Salary, we are close to the budget for Salary. There was general appreciation for the separate, internal financial statement, as it more clearly presented how much more we need in offerings/rentals to break even.</p> <p>CARRIED</p>
2017 Budget	<p>Motion: Be it resolved that the operating budget for 2017 be approved as presented.</p> <p>Wayne MacWhirter / Betty MacKenzie</p> <p>Discussion: Bookkeeper Nancy York reviewed the proposed deficit budget, explaining that budgeted income was conservative to avoid surprises. Linda Paul asked how we could keep going with deficits like this if Presbytery did not let us use the restricted funds to fund operations. Grant Gilliland said we could expect a lot more rental income if we partnered and shared the whole building. Wayne MacWhirter said we needed to embark on a stewardship campaign to rebuild our trust funds. Space-sharing partnerships alone would be insufficient. Wendy Bergeron asked why Refucare was not in the budget for 2017. Nancy York said that while it <i>is</i> money going out of the account, it is <i>not</i> part of operations.</p> <p>CARRIED</p>
Goal for M&S Contributions	<p>Motion: Be it resolved that SPEUC set its M&S target for 2017 at \$7,500 as indicated in the 2017 budget.</p> <p>Helen Smith / Tracey Wilmot CARRIED</p>
Expression of Thanks	<p>The Rev. John Moor thanked Nancy York and all who had worked on the budget for providing such a clear picture of our financial situation.</p>

	<p>Wayne MacWhirter and Nancy Thornton thanked Tracey Wilmot for all her work in putting together the Annual Report.</p> <p>Tracey said that the tax receipts were on their way. She thanked former treasurer Wayne MacWhirter, Treasurer Jacques Renaud, Property Chair Grant Gilliland, Michelle Robichaud and Bookkeeper Nancy York for their help with the Excel spreadsheets. She said that next year, we would be receiving our tax receipts in January.</p>
<p>New Business</p>	
<p>Remits from 42nd General Council: 1) Three Council Model; and 2) Elimination of Transfer and Settlement</p>	<p>Derek, our Presbytery representative, explained that we would be voting on two of four Remits from the 42nd General Council, namely, 1) Three Council Model and 2) Elimination of Transfer and Settlement. The other two would be dealt with at a subsequent congregational meeting. Derek gave some background on the two remits being reviewed, which stemmed from a decision in 2012 to conduct a total review of how we do church. The proposed reorganization would combine each conference and its presbyteries into a regional council. Grant played a supporting information video.</p> <p>Grant said we did not need ballots, just a formal recording of the vote.</p> <p><u>Remit 1</u></p> <p>Motion: That the congregation of SPEUC approve the Three-Council Model proposed by the United Church.*</p> <p>Discussion: Linda Paul asked if we should wait until the congregation had time to review the materials in detail. She asked if a link to the relevant documentation could be put on the church’s Facebook page. Another option would be to email out the link.</p> <p>Motion: That the vote on the remits be postponed to a subsequent meeting congregational meeting after church within a month and materials be distributed for review</p> <p>Helen Smith / John Moor CARRIED</p> <p><i>*Given the approval of a second motion to defer the vote, the congregation did not vote on this initial motion.</i></p>
<p>Election of Officers</p>	<p>Motion: That Michelle Robichaud be confirmed as Chair of Council for 2017–2018.</p> <p>Derek Carlisle / Linda Bretzke CARRIED</p>

	<p>Motion of thanks: To outgoing Council-member-at-large Jackie Potvin and to outgoing Council Chair Nancy Thornton (continuing as member-at-large) for their service.</p> <p>Derek Carlisle / Helen Smith CARRIED</p> <p>The Rev. John Moor expressed thanks to everyone for their contribution to the meeting and to the life and work of the church.</p>
Closing Prayer	
Adjournment	Patrick Wilmot

Geoff McGuire

Geoff McGuire
 Congregational Secretary
 SPEUC

St. Paul's–Eastern United Church
Extraordinary Congregational Meeting Jan 22, 2017

Date and Time	January 22, 2017, following the service	
Location	St. Paul's–Eastern United Church (SPEUC) hall	
Attendance	<p>The Rev. Laurie McKnight Wendy Bergeron Marg Bennett Grant Gilliland William Potts-Halpin Dorothy J. Armstrong Bernice Aye Tracey L. Wilmot Helen Smith Wil Wilson Helen Link Jackie Potvin Betty MacKenzie Linda Paul</p>	<p>Nancy Thornton Derek Carlisle Geoff McGuire (Secretary) Linda M. Bretzke Thomas Stow Jacques Renaud Frank Duern Michelle Robichaud Brenna L. Manders Paul Grose Alan Gemmill David Sweety Susan Mowers</p>
Quorum	No quorum for congregational meetings.	
Welcome	<p>Nancy called meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. She thanked Bob Richards of Edge Ministries and Andrew Hurrell of Mission per Square Foot for attending to facilitate our discussions. She then called for a motion that members and adherents be allowed to vote:</p> <p>Motion: That both members and adherents be allowed to vote at this meeting.</p> <p>Grant Gilliland / Linda Paul CARRIED</p> <p>The Rev. Laurie McKnight asked if Geoff McGuire would take minutes. Geoff agreed. Nancy thanked Grant Gilliland for his work in setting things up and Alan Gemmill for organizing tables. She then invited Laurie to chair the remainder of the meeting. Laurie indicated that Michelle Robichaud had agreed to replace her as chair if Laurie needed to express an opinion or make a statement during the meeting.</p>	
Agenda	<p>Laurie reviewed the agenda, drawing attention to copies of Viability Report (Annex D) on the tables. Laurie said Geoff would be speaking to the state of the investments on behalf of</p>	

	<p>the Trustees. She indicated that Geoff would not be presenting the budget for 2017 but that Council had approved a deficit budget for 2017.</p> <p>Concerning the Viability Report, she said that Wendy Bergeron’s name should be on that report given her significant contribution. She said that the report had been prepared in two stages: initially, a summary report had been made available to Council members and members of the congregation on our email distribution list in September 2016. She said that a few copies of the more detailed report were available on the tables for those who were interested. She stressed that we would not be going into the detailed charts and graphs at this meeting, but that Bob Richards would be presenting the summary report.</p> <p>She said that a number of options for the future (some generally applicable to any church, some specific to SPEUC) would be presented during Bob’s presentation and discussed at the tables, following which a motion prepared by Council would be presented and the congregation would decide whether to vote on the motion now or bring it forward to the Annual General Meeting (AGM).</p>
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New Business

<p>Review of the state of the investments (Geoff McGuire, Chair, Board of Trustees)</p>	<p>Geoff gave a PowerPoint presentation (Annex A) on the state of the investments, stressing that with the major expenditures on the roof project and the projected deficit in the operating fund, our unrestricted funds were likely to run out during 2017 and that we would have to approach Presbytery for permission to spend part of the principal of the proceeds from the sale of the Manse.</p> <p>Marg Bennett asked why Geoff’s presentation assumed no growth in the investments. Geoff said he was being conservative. The markets had had a good run recently but this growth might not continue. Also, with the spending on the roof project, we now had less money invested and therefore less income from the investments.</p> <p>Paul Grose asked what it meant that certain funds were “restricted”. Geoff explained that in the case of the proceeds from the sale of the Manse, Presbytery had allowed the congregation to sell that property some years before on the condition that the proceeds be invested to generate income for the Minister’s housing allowance and that the principal could not be spent without Presbytery approval. As for the restricted donations (Keenan and MacLachlan), the terms of those gifts specified that only the interest could be spent. If the congregation disbanded, the MacLachlan funds would go to the United Church, while the Keenan funds would vest in the grandson of the donor. Geoff said that the Trustees were bound by law to honour the terms of the donations.</p> <p>Laurie indicated that she had learned the process for seeking access to the Manse monies: Following the AGM, once the congregation had a clearer idea of how it intended to become sustainable, she would approach the Rev. Paul Dillman, Minister at Riverside United and Chair of Ottawa</p>
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	<p>Presbytery’s Finance Committee, with our Council’s motion from its last meeting asking that these monies be freed up. The motion alone would not be sufficient, however: we would need to present a picture of our finances, our deficit concerns and our plan for sustainability.</p> <p>Laurie then invited Bob Richards to speak.</p>
<p>Overview of Congregational Viability Report (Bob Richards)</p>	<p>Regarding the Manse funds issue, Bob indicated that Dominion Chalmers United was going through a similar process, except that in their case they were <i>selling</i> their building. He stressed that in both cases, Presbytery would want to know what we hoped to <i>do</i> with those funds. He thanked Geoff for the helpful presentation.</p> <p>Bob then spoke about the viability study that had been done by Wendy, Laurie and Grant, with input from Council. The purpose of the study was to assess our current ability to live out the vision to which Jesus calls us in Mathew 22 (to love God and love our neighbour as ourselves) and the form that this will take in our current context.</p> <p>He then reviewed the key findings of the study:</p> <p><u>Challenges</u></p> <p>Significant financial risk – older donors bear most of financial burden but will not always be there – situation common to all mainline churches with change in social values.</p> <p>Expenditures exceed income</p> <p>Building maintenance costs – another \$300,000 in repairs will eventually be needed.</p> <p>Outdated governance structures that put a heavy burden on volunteers.</p> <p>He noted that we had taken the first step by acknowledging the problem; many congregations are in blissful ignorance.</p> <p><u>Opportunities</u></p> <p>New members are joining the congregation – But they are <i>doers</i>, not <i>joiners</i>. They want to make a difference, not necessarily ally themselves with a particular congregation or organization for the long term and sit on committees. Also, we are serving more marginal people who may want a spiritual experience but may not want to take part in traditional worship. We are also serving students, who bring new life into the congregation, even if they lack the means to offer financial support and do not want to become members.</p>

Diverse neighbourhood – Ranging from poor to wealthy, from new condos to rooming houses, artists, business people, students.

Relationship with Odawa – Key opportunity. Reconciliation is a timely concern for the country as a whole. Our situation is typical of urban churches, where the church is used during the week by people who do not come to Sunday worship and by Sunday worshipers do not use building during the week. There is a need for safe spaces in downtown cores.

Recommendation

That we continue developing our relationship with Odawa Native Friendship Centre

What we are doing here is very important for Canada and for the United Church specifically in terms of reconciliation with First Nations and Inuit. Ottawa Presbytery and other groups in the community (e.g. university) are very interested in the work we are doing and willing to help.

Options

Bob reviewed the standard options facing all churches in our position but stressed that they all amount to an attempt to maintain “business as usual” when what is needed is a new mission.

He referred to the other option (the “Kingdom Option”), following Christ’s call to create heaven on earth.

We could do this in partnership with Odawa (or another organization).

Wil Wilson asked whether the Kingdom Option was simply another way of saying “closure”.

Bob clarified that it was instead a way for congregations to draw in new people and financial resources by pursuing a new mission in collaboration with the broader community.

Linda Paul asked how the Kingdom Option differed from the status quo in that we are not really seeing any new income or volunteers from our current partnership with Odawa. Her impression was that the only issue was *who* we are leasing or selling to.

Bob explained that the two options *are* identical unless we pursue the new mission. Pursuing a true partnership with Odawa could attract a lot of interest, a lot of volunteers and a lot of financial support.

Linda wondered why this had not happened yet.

Bob said that we are still developing the relationship, a difficult relationship given the history of settlement and the dark chapters in the church’s relationship with indigenous peoples.

Laurie added that there were many volunteers here during the week from

	<p>other denominations and United Church congregations.</p> <p>Laurie asked if Bob could share the specific options developed by our Church Council (Annex B) for discussion at this meeting. Bob proceeded to read these options.</p> <p>He pointed out that “gifting” the building is not an option that would be approved by Ottawa Presbytery. When buildings are disposed of, Ottawa Presbytery is entitled to 15% of the proceeds to support new mission work. Laurie said that the reference to “gifting” should have been removed.</p> <p>Andrew Hurrell intervened to speak to the difference between the Kingdom Option and the status quo.</p> <p>He stressed that it was not about changing the mission of the church but about making a conscious decision to live out that mission in a new way.</p> <p>Helen Smith pointed out that even though we have not established a formal partnership with Odawa, we have already received some money from the community to support the work we are doing with Odawa.</p> <p>Andrew stressed that although we are entirely free to choose a different path, the relationship with Odawa represents an obvious opportunity that warrants consideration.</p>
<p>Mission into Action (Andrew Hurrell of Mission per Square Foot)</p>	<p>Andrew said he had taken our 2014 mission statement and tried to translate it into a short-term vision (next 3 to 5 years), the “hopeful future that we have collectively.” A vision gives you something you can “hang your hat on”, to set directions and bring other people in.</p> <p>He had taken us through a few exercises since then to determine what excited and engaged us. He and Wendy Bergeron had distilled those discussions into a Five-Year Focus (Annex E).</p> <p>Andrew reviewed the statements in this document, which included further developing the relationship with Odawa and transforming ourselves and our building.</p> <p>He reiterated Bob’s earlier statement that there were many interested organizations who could help fund the work we are doing.</p> <p>If we are half as successful as we could be, we could become an inspirational model for other churches.</p> <p>Laurie pointed out that the Five-Year Focus document had already been approved by Council.</p> <p>Andrew then invited us to discuss three questions at our tables:</p> <p>What do you appreciate about the new focus and proposed partnership with Odawa, and what excites you?</p> <p>What concerns do you have?</p> <p>How do you see yourself being personally involved in the mission?</p> <p>One attendee said it was all well and good that we wanted to partner with Odawa, but did we actually have any commitment from Odawa to</p>

	<p>reciprocate or stay on with us?</p> <p>Laurie said that Odawa’s board had met the previous Wednesday and decided, out of respect for us, not to discuss the partnership anymore until they had a formal invitation, at which point we would be looking at a long-term lease. They have to leave City Centre with a staff of 28, and we would be housing a portion of their staff (for office use rather than drop-in activities). They need an offer of a long-term lease in order to be able to mount a capital campaign for federal and provincial funding and funding from foundations.</p> <p>[DISCUSSION AT TABLES]</p> <p>Andrew then asked the various tables to share their answers to the three questions.</p> <p>Laurie said that Council wanted to hear at some point whether there was a strong opinion one way or another about the various options developed by Council in the handouts on the tables.</p> <p>Andrew encouraged the assembly to do so during the exercise.</p> <p>Bob collected answers on a flipchart (summary in Annex C).</p> <p>Laurie stressed that there are people (some with funding), both in the United Church and in the community, who were ready to support us.</p>
<p>Decision on Odawa Partnership</p>	<p>Laurie invited Helen Smith to present the motion prepared by Helen and Wendy Bergeron with the support of Council.</p> <p>Motion: To authorize Council to extend an invitation to the Odawa Native Friendship Centre to partner with SPEUC to share space at 473 Cumberland Street in a spirit of reconciliation and to embark on partnership negotiations to that end, on the understanding that any final decisions regarding shared space will be brought back to the congregation for final approval.</p> <p>Moved by Helen Smith / Seconded by Wendy Bergeron</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p>Frank Duern asked when the AGM was to be held? Helen said March 5, in six weeks.</p> <p>Betty MacKenzie asked whether there was any urgency?</p> <p>Laurie said that, if the motion were approved, she could communicate it immediately to Claudette Commanda, Odawa President, and Morgan Hare, Odawa Executive Director, so that the motion could work its way through a similar process on the Odawa Board. The urgency is that</p>

	<p>Odawa needs to vacate its space at City Centre in less than two years, so it needs to know, for planning purposes, whether this partnership is a go. Also, the Barry Padolsky Associates Inc. architectural firm, which Laurie had first contacted three years before and which had already given us a basic assessment of our building, was ready to work with us. This would give us estimates of what the new space arrangement would look like. Laurie said that we could probably defer a decision on partnership until the AGM without risk if we were not ready to vote today.</p> <p>Susan Mowers asked if the topic might get lost in the AGM agenda. Laurie did not see a risk of that as it would be a key piece in the agenda. Helen cautioned that any postponement might be perceived by Odawa as reluctance on our part, leading Odawa to pursue other avenues. Wil Wilson asked whether, even if we voted today, we would still get another “kick at the can.”</p> <p>Helen said that any major arrangement like a 10-year lease would still be brought back to the congregation.</p> <p>Laurie said that for issues of money and leases, the Council would constantly be coming back to the congregation for approval as a legal requirement.</p> <p>That being the case, Wil suggested that we vote today.</p> <p>Tracey Wilmot reminded the assembly that Odawa still had a major process to go through before anything could actually happen.</p> <p>All in favour: All Contrary minded: 0 Abstentions: 0</p> <p>CARRIED unanimously</p> <p>Laurie thanked Andrew for his work on behalf of Mission per Square Foot and Bob for his involvement in Edge Ministries. She also thanked Nancy Thornton, Chair of Council, Geoff McGuire, Chair of Trustees, and Grant Gilliland and Wendy Bergeron for all their work.</p>
Closing Prayer	Laurie led the assembly in a closing prayer.
Adjournment	P. Wilmot

St. Paul's–Eastern United Church
Extraordinary Congregational Meeting Dec 17, 2017

Date and Time	December 17, 2017, following the service	
Location	St. Paul's–Eastern United Church (SPEUC) sanctuary	
Attendance	Bennett, Marg Bergeron, Wendy Carlisle, Derek Duern, Frank Gilliland, Grant (Chair) Grose, Elaine Grose, Paul Johnson, Val Link, Helen MacWhirter, Wayne Manders, Brenna L. McGuire, Geoff (Secretary) McKnight, the Rev. Laurie Milne, Martha	Moor, the Rev. John Oudit, Heather Pepall, Diana Potts-Halpin, William Potvin, Jackie Pulsifer, Cameron Reid, Louise Renaud, Jacques Smith, Helen Stockemer, Cécile Thornton, Nancy Wilmot, Patrick Wilmot, Tracey L.
Quorum	Requirement: 10 full members for a congregation of between 30 and 99 full members. A quorum was reached with 21 full members present.	
Welcome	The Rev. Laurie McKnight welcomed those assembled. Helen Smith read aloud an inspiring poem called “The Coming of God.”	
Election of Chair	Motion: That Grant Gilliland be appointed Chair for this meeting W. Bergeron / W. MacWhirter	
Election of Secretary	Motion: That Geoff McGuire be appointed Secretary for this meeting M. Milne / L. Reid	
Business Arising		
Odawa application for early years centre here at SPEUC	The Chair gave the general background of Odawa's application for an early years centre at SPEUC as part of the Journey Together initiative. A memorandum from the provincial government to the City of Ottawa confirming Odawa's receipt of approval of Odawa's proposal (Annex A) was distributed to the participants. The Chair asked if the participants wanted him to review the document in detail, but the participants agreed this was not necessary. The Chair also indicated that today's vote would be open to full members only as the by-laws of the United Church exclude adherents from voting on property matter requiring the consent of Presbytery.	

In response to concerns that the money might not be used for the intended purpose, the Chair stressed that the terms of the funding require it to be spent on this particular project.

The Chair said he would work with Geoff McGuire, one other volunteer and a lawyer to develop a lease.

We have received \$20,000 from Embracing the Spirit to cover soft costs (lawyer, architect, etc.).

We will use the same architect (Barry Padolsky) and an engineer to develop a plan for the upstairs looking at what we would like to have and what we absolutely need.

It should be early spring of 2018 before any work actually happens.

The Rev. L. McKnight said that Joe Ramsey, a United Church minister specializing in helping congregations with revisioning, would be assisting us in our project planning.

Other sources of funding include:

Mission Support Grant (\$10,000)

United Church Extension fund (grants and interest-free loans)

United Church Foundation

Capital improvement fund for old buildings

We will have to decide whether we need to hire a fundraising lead.

B. Manders asked Barry Padolsky would stay on as architect for the early years centre now that the Province had approved less money for renovations than sought. The Chair said Mr. Padolsky was excited about the project and would likely stay on.

W. MacWhirter asked if we could arrange some times to go see what other churches have done along the same lines. The Rev. L. McKnight said she would arrange a time for us to visit St. Albans following a church service.

Action: The Rev. L. McKnight. She said there were many examples to see online as well.

F. Duern asked if the Province had put a restriction on when Odawa had to spend the money. The Chair said 2018 for capital funds. This is a tight timeline.

The Chair clarified that SPEUC would be used for the early years centre only, not for drop-ins and offices.

M. Milne asked what would happen after the two-years' operating funding expired. The Chair said that document (Annex A) in fact referred to three years of investment, although the table in the appendix only covered the first two years. The Rev. L. McKnight said that since reconciliation is a major theme for governments at this time, we can expect the provincial commitment to continue.

The Rev. J. Moor asked whether this was to be a daycare centre. A few participants clarified that it was instead a place to teach culture to children

and to give parents training. N. Thornton said this was a culturally based initiative to give children a head start and to teach skills to parents.

P. Wilmot gave a brief description of some of the activities he would expect to see in an early years centre based on his experience at Wabano.

The Rev. L. McKnight said Colleen Sauve from Odawa, who has an office here at SPEUC, has been appointed head of the early years centre.

M. Bennett asked who would be responsible for keeping the elevator running. The Chair said the current elevator company would continue to provide service for the time being. Who would do it in future would be decided in lease.

W. Bergeron reminded the participants that the architect's plans reflected the congregation's input at "dreaming sessions" held some time ago.

B. Manders wanted to make sure we retain space for our use, such as the parlour. The Chair said Odawa would not be able to spend money without our congregation's approval. However, the Rev. Laurie McKnight said the preliminary plans do show a big open space where the hall and parlour are now. We need to be prepared to let go of the downstairs, although we can probably negotiate a right to use the downstairs.

W. MacWhirter said we cannot go back and start revisiting all the decisions we have already made about what we want to keep and what we can do without.

F. Duern asked whether we can guarantee that we'll have the space we need when we lose the lower level since we do not even have funding for renovations upstairs yet.

The Chair hoped Barry Padolsky would give us timelines.

The Rev. Laurie McKnight said Presbytery would have to approve the proposed reconstruction but that they had been aware of it since last May. Following a lengthy discussion, it was decided that the motion approved today must clearly express support for the Early Years Centre in the lower level and delegate further decision-making to the Odawa Working Group.

Motion: That whereas the congregation of SPEUC agrees to lease the lower level of the church to the Odawa Native Friendship Centre for the purpose of developing an Early Years Centre, we authorize the Odawa Working Group to continue ongoing negotiations to this end.

L. Reid / D. Carlisle

CARRIED unanimously by a vote of full members only

Motion: That G. Gilliland, H. Smith, M. Milne, P. Grose and W. Potts-Halpin form a consultative committee to deal directly with the architect on the repurposing of the sanctuary.

	<p>W. MacWhirter / Rev. J. Moor</p> <p>CARRIED unanimously by a vote of full members only</p> <p>The Rev. Laurie McKnight said she would be meeting with Morgan Hare, Executive Director of Odawa, next week to take the next steps.</p>
Adjournment	J. Potvin
Closing Prayer	Laurie led the assembly in a closing prayer.



Geoff McGuire
 Congregational Secretary
 SPEUC

Pastoral Care Report

Members of the congregation continue to provide pastoral care to each other. During the final illness of our former caretaker Greg Bennett, members of the congregation reached out to him and his family and friends. Rev. Laurie McKnight continues to lead worship monthly at The Edinburgh Retirement Centre supported by Marg Bennett, Jacques Renaud, and Helen Smith. Helen Smith leads worship once a month at the Good Companions day away program.

Heather Oudit continues to send birthday greetings to older members and to children and youth, especially to those away at colleges and universities.

Derek Carlisle continues to send Christmas cards to past members and friends featuring photos taken by members of the congregation.

Submitted by Helen Smith

Outreach Report

Student volunteering

2017 was the second time SPEUC was an official community partner to The Michaëlle Jean Centre for Global and Community Engagement program.

We had two volunteers for the Sandy Hill Senior Network, one in the winter, and one in the fall. We opened a new placement with the Odawa Food Bank in the fall and offered 2 test positions which were selected right away by 2 reliable students who helped until the end of the year. Following the request of one of our members, we opened a placement for the support group for people suffering from Guillain-Barré Syndrom or Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy. Despite the interest of 2 students in Nursing and Social Work, we had to cancel the placement as the group didn't officially exist and couldn't therefore welcome students.

Everyone's Sister

Everyone's Sister is a community group devoted to helping settle women refugees fleeing war, violence and/or exploitation. The Group recognizes that at least half of the refugees in the world are women and girls whose refugee experience puts them at a heightened risk of sexual and gender-based violence. Everyone's Sister sponsors individual women refugees seeking to reunite with family in Ottawa and supports them in using their skills and abilities to successfully resettle in the community.

The Group's present goal is to raise funds to support Farah, a 22-year-old Syrian woman, in coming to Canada to join her older brother Sam. The funds raised will support Farah during her first year in Ottawa and cover her costs for rent, clothing, education, food, and other living expenses. As of the end of December 2017, through private donations and fund-raising events, close to \$10,000 have already been raised.

St. Paul's-Eastern United Church is partnering with the group as its Sponsorship Agreement Holder and will hold all donated funds in a trust account for Farah.

(Respectfully submitted by Wendy Bergeron, SPEUC representative to Everyone's Sister Working Group)

Garage sale

Our annual garage sale took place on September 16th. It was a success and we managed to raise about \$1400 for the Outreach budget. A huge thank you to Grant as well as each and every person who helped with the delivery, organizing, sorting, selling and cleaning. Your help was greatly appreciated.

Church crawl

This year's Church crawl was on September 9th from 6 to about 8:30pm. We welcomed a dozen teams or about 60 students. The event was a success and everyone enjoyed the food and drinks prepared by some members of the Church who volunteered their time to bake/cook and/or supervise the crawl. A huge thank you to them.

Odawa Angel Tree

This year's Angel Tree was another great success. Morgan Hare, Executive Director of Odawa, who participated for the first time in the gift pick-up, was very impressed by the generosity of our Church members. A huge thank you to everyone who chose to participate in giving a beautiful Christmas to First Nation children, and to Laurie for handling the very tedious task of picking-up and delivering all the gifts. We are so very grateful.

Sandy Hill Senior Network

Sandy Hill Seniors Network Met for lunch January-May and September to December. Up to 15 people attended. Chris Bradshaw assisted in organizing the group and Alan Gemmill helped with setup and clean up.

Talks focused on a variety of topics including a discussion of aboriginal spirituality and drug safety. The Dec. meeting involved sharing of old Christmas hymns we remember from our childhood.

A number of people assisted with the lunch.

(Submitted by Helen Smith)

Multi-Faith Housing

We took out our membership at a church in Multi-Faith Housing who successfully opened a new facility in Barrhaven in 2017.

Doors Open Ottawa

We participated in this event again this year in the first weekend of June welcoming many visitors to explore and appreciate our heritage church. Thank you to all those who volunteered as hosts.

Refugee sponsorship agreement

After approval by our Council to be an SAH (Sponsorship Agreement Holder) after being approached by Pastor Habtae Araia, an agreement was made on November 21, 2017 with the Araia family who are members of the Hiyaw Amalack that has rented space from our church. We will assist their Constituent Group (The Araia Family) to bring to Canada KoKob Tesfamihret, originally from Eritrea, currently living in Israel as a refugee. They have provided the church with the sum of \$500 and will provide up to another \$4,500 as needed to complete the 12 month commitment to support this relative. The Constituent Group will provide all the funds for accommodation and food for KoKob Tesfamihret until he is able to support himself for a maximum of 12 months. Their objective is to raise a minimum of \$5000 in his support from their family and congregation.

Submitted by Cécile Stockemer, Chair of Outreach Committee

Mission & Service Report

At the SPEUC, we participate in Mission and Service (M&S), an important philanthropic ministry of the United Church of Canada stewardship program. There are other donations that are given on top of those for Mission & Service e.g. emergency appeals, Gifts with Vision and the Healing Fund.

"Mission & Service is The United Church of Canada's main fund and the largest contributor to our annual budget. Mission & Service donations support congregations and new church development, Canadian outreach programs, international relief and development, training and supporting ministers, maintaining ecumenical relationships, and administration and governance work. ...

Emergency Response: In the event of a major disaster, the church can issue an appeal for donations over and above those for Mission & Service".

Gifts with Vision are opportunities to do something extra for our partners in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, and across Canada.

The Healing Fund is one facet of the United Church's ongoing work of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples dealing with the long-term effects of residential schools".

Activities done to promote M& S at SPEUC:

- set its M&S targets and fundraising goal at our annual meeting
 - have a sign-up sheet and announce for volunteer readers for Minute for Mission.
 - have a Minute for Mission segment during our Sunday services when we read and/or show videos from the Minute for Mission booklet that tell stories of how M & S funds are being used in Canada and globally.
 - announce emergency appeals that are brought to the local church's attention usually as part of the national church's response to major disasters.
 - promote giving through the Gifts with Vision catalogue through verbal announcements, written announcements in the Sunday service bulletin, post on Facebook page and display copies of the Gifts with Vision catalogue booklets in the Sanctuary and downstairs hall.
 - share information received from our Montreal and Ottawa Conference Mission & Service Support person with appropriate individuals in the church office or congregation and shared with the wider congregation, when relevant , on notice board, in the church bulletin or read announcements during church services.
- We do not always have Minute for Mission time included during church services for a variety of reasons. e.g.
- No one has signed up to read. Rev Laurie or Bernice sometimes step in to do the readings.
 - On days when there are lots of activities, e.g. communion, church meetings, special Sundays, etc., we omit the reading of Minute for Mission to save some time during the service.
 - When we have specific local outreach projects in progress, (e.g. "Christmas Angels" project for Aboriginal children, Odawa-related projects, etc.) we present information about these local projects during the Minute for Mission time slot.

Summary of Mission & Service Giving for 2017 from St. Paul's-Eastern Pastoral Charge - Report dated January 31, 2018

- 2017 Fundraising Goal for M& S target for 2017 from SPEUC: \$7500
- Amount from Community of Faith: \$7327.50
- Amount of Special Gifts: \$466.08
- Total M & S donations from SPEUC in 2017: \$7793.58

Our contributions are used in the larger budget of the United Church of Canada

BUDGETED 2017 MISSION & SERVICE REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES (\$27.7 MILLION)

-United Church of Canada: This information is taken from "[Mission & Service at a Glance 2017](#)"

www.united-church.ca/sites/default/files/resources/mission-service-at-a-glance.pdf

<p>MISSION & SERVICE DONATIONS: \$24.8 MILLION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Giving for Mission & Service: congregational, UCW, and individual gifts • Giving through wills and other planned gifts for Mission & Service • Giving for Mission & Service also comes from and through The United Church of Canada Foundation. 	<p>ADDITIONAL REVENUE: \$2.9 MILLION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional revenue is designated for specific Mission & Service partners and programs. • Other revenue sources include retail sales, investment income, and unrestricted donations.
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This M&S Budget in 2017 was targeted to provide assistance to

CANADA: 63 community ministries; 33 chaplaincies; 20 ecumenical and social movement organizations; 7 theological schools; 3 education centres; 83 pastoral charges; 13 Conferences; dozens of Vision Fund projects

with youth; Healing Fund and Justice and Reconciliation Fund projects; Embracing the Spirit innovation projects.

CARIBBEAN AND LATIN AMERICA: 30 partners in 8 countries

AFRICA, EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST: 30 partners in 8 countries

ASIA: 22 partners in 5 countries

- 92 global Mission & Service partners—church, Christian councils, ecumenical groups, and agencies—that minister in partnership with the people of the United Church in 21 countries around the world. This includes 10 Mission & Service partners doing international ecumenical work.

All Mission & Service givings received by the national church are applied entirely to these six program areas. Here is an estimate for the 2017 budget.

JUSTICE, WITNESS, AND RECONCILIATION \$8.4 million—30% of budget (\$4.7 million in direct grants)	Global Mission & Service: \$5 million—18% of Mission & Service (\$2.9 million in direct grants) Community and Justice Work: \$3.4 million—12% of Mission & Service (\$1.8 million in direct grants)
DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP \$9.9 million—36% of budget (\$1.9 million in direct grants)	Theological Education and Vocation of Ministry Support: \$2.2 million—8% of Mission & Service (\$1.6 million in direct grants) Faith Formation: \$7.7 million - 28% of Mission & Service (\$0.3 million in direct grants)
FUNDING PASTORAL AND PROGRAM WORK \$9.4 million—34% of budget (\$5.5 million in direct grants)	Support to Local Ministries: \$6.8 million—25% of Mission & Service (\$2.9 million in direct grants) Conference Leadership: \$2.6 million—9% of Mission & Service (\$2.6 million in direct grants)

Expenditures in the six program areas include direct grants, and program costs (including staff and support services). Support services required for program delivery include finance, information technology, human resources, and communications.

OUT OF EACH \$100 DOLLARS: \$18 goes to global Mission & Service; \$12 to community and justice work; \$8 for theological education; \$28 for faith formation; \$25 supports innovation and local ministries; \$9 supports leadership in Conferences.

IMPACT OF MISSION & SERVICE: OFFER COMPASSION, BUILD COMMUNITY, WALK WITH HOPE Addressing poverty, Championing human rights, Engaging reconciliation initiatives, building vibrant leadership, innovating ministry.

Suggestions from M& S Enthusiast to SPEUC:

- encourage more congregation members and guests to sign up for M&S readings.
- include M&S in its overall financial planning with the involvement of the Treasurer and other financial planners for the church.
- take advantage of resources and training provided by the larger church to include more M& S activities in our programming. Example: attendance at workshops for treasurers, trustees, stewardship and outreach committees; access learning programs in-person and online, consult resource personnel from the Montreal and Ottawa Conference and use other resources found in the stewardship toolkit in our worship and fundraising programs

Additional Resources

- Carolyn Ruda, Montreal and Ottawa Conference Mission & Service Support & Chair, Conference Stewardship

- Paul Sales, Financial Development Officer, Bay of Quite and Montreal & Ottawa Conference
- Stewardship Toolkit www.stewardshiptoolkit.ca, www.stewardshiptoolkit.ca/mission-service
- united-church.ca (search Mission & Service) or phone: 1-800-268-3781 ext 2738

“Every day you make a difference in someone’s life with Mission & Service. Thank you for your part in this hope-fulfilling story. Thank you for helping us serve God’s mission in 2017.”- *Philanthropy Unit & Carolyn Ruda*

M & S 2017 Report Respectfully submitted by M& S Enthusiast Bernice K. Aye

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## **Open Table Report**

Last year I was able to produce monthly reports to keep everyone up to date with our work as a ministry. Unfortunately, this year being my senior year has made my schedule a bit more hectic. Instead, here is a term report of our activities as a group.

I am happy to report that this semester has shown continued growth from last year. Our September meal had an attendance of 100 students! (Up from 70 last year). This was a great time and a great opening to the year. Being able to utilize the outside picnic tables was a great boon, and the weather was magnificent. We got great feedback on just about every front. A friend of mine needed to create a promotional video for a campus group for his communications course, so he asked if we would be willing to participate. Unfortunately, we have had formatting issues with the video, but I am hoping to have those finally resolved. The final product is attached and I am hoping to post it this week to help excite people about our upcoming January meal.

Our October meal has continued to show a lower turn out, with 45 students in attendance. This is still an improvement from last year, where there were only 31 students in attendance, however, the month of October continues to be quite difficult due to the concentration of holidays, exams, projects and reading week. Despite the smaller turnout, the October meal was a great success serving those who were able to make it out.

Our November meal had an attendance of 65 students, which was a small raise from the 61 students last year. It was a great meal, and despite the difficult weather, we had a solid turnout right in the range that we like to be in.

The Exam Pause Tables went swimmingly, and having two days was a great way to further engage students and help them weather the storms of their exams. It is always a great feeling getting to connect with them and remind them that they are loved, even in this rough time of year. The two days were a great success, with only a box of green banana's left at the end of the day, which was brought down to the uOttawa Food Bank. In Total, we served approx. 500 students between the two days.

Promotions-wise, we have continued to emphasize online and direct contact as our ways to engage students, and we are working on a new standing banner in the New Year for usage at the pause tables. I hope that you have all been able to continue to share the dates of our meals with any students in your congregations (Reminders for the dates of the remaining meals: Jan 28th, Feb 11th, March 25th) and continue to spread the word about the work we have the privilege to do in God's name.

With the fall semester behind us, I would like to thank everyone for their continued support, as well as their service in this ministry. We students in Ottawa are truly blessed to have such generous and caring congregations that seek to help support us and feed us. I look forward to continuing to help to spread Gods love in this winter term with all of you.

I hope that this reaches you all well, please let me know if you have any questions!

All the best,

Jon Hopkins, Student leader of The Open Table

## **Church Council Report**

“Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.” Harriet Tubman

Our Church has been working hard to realize our dream of continuing to serve each other and the community, while strengthening right relations with our indigenous brothers and sisters. Church Council has been tasked with leading the changes which will enable SPEUC to be at the forefront of living our reconciliation. I would like to thank everyone in the congregation for their support, hard work and commitment in reaching for this dream.

Council has been very patient and generous to me while I struggled to fill the big shoes left by Nancy Thornton, the previous Chair and now Member-at-Large. I am surrounded by an incredible team of people who have complementary talents and skills; being a part of it is truly a blessing.

We have equally capable and dedicated members at every level of the Church, from Committee members to the Choir to Sunday morning greeters to coffee time providers to loyal worshippers. Thank you all for your making our Church a warm, caring, dynamic community where everyone feels welcome and can find a place to worship and share their gifts.

This has been a busy year for so many reasons. Thanks to the property team, the Trustees, and all who contributed, we have a gorgeous new cedar shake roof. We continued moving forward with building a relationship with Odawa Native Friendship Centre. We met several times as a congregation to discuss substantial changes to the structure and working of the United Church at the national level. Derek Carlisle gave us a wonderful present by organizing an extraordinary evening of live music at the Church to celebrate his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. And always, we found time to worship and value fellowship.

We had changes in some Church positions, too. We enjoyed amazing administrative support from Tracey Wilmot, who acted as our Administrator until October. She was replaced by Patrick Saumur, who is also a Computer Programmer student at Algonquin College. Jacques Renaud agreed to serve as our Treasurer after Wayne MacWhirter resigned from the position. I would like to take this opportunity recognize Wayne’s many contributions to the Church, not just his years as Treasurer. And we welcomed Elaine Grose, in September, as the new Children’s Ministry Coordinator.

We have a Church which lives its mission and, with passion, “reaches for the stars to change the world.” It is a privilege to serve here with you all.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Robichaud, Chair of Church Council



## Ministry & Personnel Report

As I get to know Rev Laurie more each year, I find that myself appreciating her that much more, especially for the manner in which she provides direction for us all. It not easy to know everything and then to provide direction. It is truly a special person who knows just how much energy is needed per subject and knowing how much to let go. While these words are my meager attempt to communicate this, it's her needs that really say it for us. And by the way, her First Nation pursuits are stellar. There have been times in this whole process where Laurie has out shined us all, myself included. We are blessed to have you with us.

**Music Director, Paul Grose.** I appreciate getting to know Paul better each year. While I got to learn more about the music I was pleased to learn that that we would try something new with the postlude. Paul provided me the computer info I used to create a slideshow of the selection. We will be meeting this year to discuss the results of our efforts. It has been a pleasure to serve Paul in this manner. Thanks.

**Church Administrator:** In mid December 2016, Tracey Wilmot was hired to take on the role as church administrator. In the process of taking this task on Tracey would eventually leave this posting for another job opportunity more akin to her skill sets. Which brings me to Patrick Saumur our new church administer. Picking up where Tracey left off, I believe we are well on our way with someone who continues to value continuity. Thanks, Patrick

**Caretaker William Potts-Halpin:** With all of the things William continues to do for the church, we have agreed that we would be meeting the first Tuesday of each month. While this was not as possible in 2017 I look forward to this commitment in 2018.

**Our Children's Ministry Coordinator, Michelle Robichaud:** As you are aware Michelle will officially be following her heart to enroll herself as a student as she is being called to become a minister. This be said, Elaine Grose has agreed to take over from Michelle. Elaine's loyalty to this posting has proven to be a blessing. Good job, Elaine. I am always impressed the degree to which our staff honor the God we worship in the way they carry out their work each year. We are blessed to have such team here at St Paul's-Eastern United Church.

**Reverend Laurie McKnight:** When I think about Laurie and the spiritual journey of our church, I get to thinking about the First Nation Thirteen teachings. The one teaching that reminds me of Laurie is the Spirit moon. By the way, while you are reading this teaching, I need each and every one of you to think about all those times when this teaching has come to life at various time, year after year. This is just my way of honoring the work of the church and more importantly honoring the person who breathes life to the place we know as St. Paul's Eastern United Church: "MNIDOONS GIIZIS BLUE MOON - BIG SPIRIT MOON DECEMBER. And here why. The thirteenth moon of Creation is Blue Moon or Big Spirit Moon. Its purpose is to purify us, and to heal all of Creation, a process which may take a three month long spiritual journey. During this time, we receive instructions on the healing powers of the universe and transform into our own vision of the truth."

<http://onlc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/13-Moon-curriculum2.pdf>

**Ministry Personnel committee:** Currently, this committee is comprised of Louise Reid and Patrick Wilmot. We are always looking for more persons to serve on this committee. And are pleased to announce that Daniel Stockemer will be joining us this year. Thank you, Louise for all the support you have given this committee. I truly could not have done without you. Thank you.

Submitted by,

Patrick Wilmot, Chair of the M&P Committee

## Property Report

P&G Roofing completed the job they started in the fall spring. On schedule and as per quotation.

Fishburn / Sheridan & Assoc. Ltd. Engineering oversaw the work being done.

November of this year saw us with a power outage and a flood in the boiler room causing approximately two thousand dollars in damage to our boiler. Clement Marchand handled the repairs and our boiler insurance covered a good portion.

William Potts looked after our building inside and out with occasional help from our outside congregants weeding the garden and picking up the garbage and cigarette butts.

Odawa Native Friendship center continued to rent the former Sunday school room for their Sweet Grass program which oversees day cares and advocates for aboriginal youth. The River of Life congregation used the Hall Friday evenings. The AA group continued to meet on Sunday evenings. We also have some spiritual directors use the Sanctuary once a month. This year we also had a few new groups using the facility to rehearse different plays.

In the name of Right Relations the hall was used for a gathering of young people from Canadian roots exchange again this year. The exchange was with young people from Kuujjuaq. We continue to provide space for the Odawa Food Bank. A group of young indigenous people from Ottawa U. also used the hall for 6 months for beading on Monday evenings. Odawa also held their annual New Year's Eve Pow Wow in the hall again this year.

Respectfully submitted

Grant Gilliland

Property chair.

## Odawa Working Group Report

**Members of the Odawa Working Group:** Wendy Bergeron, Nancy Thornton, Cecil Stockemer, Sue Mowers, Grant Gilliland, Patrick Wilmot, Tracey Wilmot, Helen Smith, Wayne MacWhirter, Rev Laurie McKnight

**Members of the newly formed Sanctuary Renovation Planning Group:** Martha Milne, Paul Gross, Helen Smith, Grant Gilliland, Frank Duern, William Potts-Halpin, Rev Laurie McKnight

The year began with a generous expression of outreach to the Odawa Native Friendship Centre (Odawa) to continue developing a partnership with our congregation through sharing space to meet some of their program and administrative needs. In the spirit of reconciliation, a letter was sent to Morgan Hare, the Executive Director and to Claudette Commanda, their Council President on February 14<sup>th</sup> containing the following motion:

*Move to authorize Council to extend an invitation to the Odawa Native Friendship Centre to share space at 473 Cumberland Street in a spirit of reconciliation and to embark on negotiations to that end on the understanding that any final decisions regarding shared space will be brought back to the congregation for final approval. Moved by Helen Smith and Seconded by Wendy Bergeron Carried*

*We look forward to working out the details of our partnership/lease agreement so that we might collaborate in a spirit of friendship and strengthen each of our organizations and their mission.*

Over the next few months we waited for a clear response from the Odawa Council which kept being deferred. Claudette Commanda, in respect for The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (**UNDRIP**) which upholds the need to seek open and transparent consultation with Indigenous

communities before decisions are made, held a consultation with the Odawa Community to learn what their opinion was concerning moving forward with a partnership/sharing space at our church. Patrick Wilmot from our Council attended this meeting as he also works at Wabano Health Centre and he brought a positive message to this meeting to develop trust. However, we learned through Patrick and Morgan Hare that several people who were not really part of Odawa appeared at the meeting and were very negative about having programs/office space at our church even though they have done so for several years.

This was difficult news to hear yet we still awaited a more definite, written response to our letter of invitation from February, 2017. To that end, a letter was sent from our Council in June by Michelle Robichaud, our Chair to their Chair Claudette to respond no later than the end of September what their intentions were going to be given that we were holding back on renting space to other organizations. We understood that they needed to decide about moving all of their staff from their City Centre Location by October 2017 in order to break their lease and determine where they would be re-locating. We always understood that only some of their staff and programs would be located at our church which is a central, downtown location. Further delays to receiving a definitive response ensued throughout the fall following changes in leadership within the Odawa Council after the departure of the existing Council President. This was a great learning for us in patient waiting.

During this time of waiting and listening I was made aware that Morgan Hare was researching the need for early childhood education in the diverse Indigenous Community in Ottawa as the Province of Ontario had announced that \$80 million would be made available for new initiatives for Early Years Centres in Ontario. Odawa then hired a proposal writer to submit an application to create an EYC in Ottawa that would be located in the lower level of our church. This filled our hearts with enthusiasm and hope as it would be an important part of nurturing the lives of indigenous children age 0-6 here in Ottawa, as well as offering spiritual, cultural and emotional support for their families. This would be an important step in the journey of reconciliation not only for our church but for the wider United Church who had a significant role historically in the damaging work of the residential schools across Canada. We received full support from the Ottawa Presbytery through a letter written by David Sherwin, the Presbytery Minister, to pursue this proposal of an EYC in the lower level of our church.

The proposal was prepared very quickly through the summer months which included several meetings between some members of the working group, myself, Morgan Hare, staff members of Sweet Grass Home Day Care. The deadline for submission was in early October. This process also involved the engagement of Barry Padolsky, Architectural firm, to create a drawing and cost estimates of an EYC as well as costs to renovating the sanctuary to accommodate our needs as a congregation. The costs for this work was carried by Odawa. We also reached out to a Commercial Real Estate Company, Collier International who helped us to understand the options for creating a Long-Term lease as well as a Lease to Own. The proposal for the EYC was submitted by early October and we were excited to hear if this would become a reality, especially as it meant that we had to get busy to work on the needed renovations for the sanctuary and to apply for funds for ourselves.

Beginning in August into November we began to reach out to other people and United Church programs to receive the support we would need for project development, planning and financial support to develop the relationship with Odawa, our own renovations, as well as informing the neighbourhood of the potential changes to our church building. I reached out to United Church colleagues Joe Ramsay and Allan Reeves who were developing a new business that would help congregations live into new and creative ministries. They were excited to work with us and the Council agreed to hire Joe Ramsay and Associates to help us with our project development. We planned to pay him by accessing funding from the United Church nationally or through the Presbytery Mission Strategy Fund.

In October, a member of our Working Group, Sue Mowers applied to the United Church's "Embracing the Spirit" fund to receive a grant to help us develop our unfolding relationship with Odawa and begin our renovation plans. She did a lot of research which revealed the real need for an EYC here in Ottawa and after receiving a visit from Carla Leon, the staff person from the National United Church, and after consultation with other members of the working group, Sue sent in the application for funding in October, up to \$25,000. We were ecstatic when we were informed in December that we were going to be awarded \$20,000 for the purposes of developing this relationship with Odawa and our renovation work to help with the 'soft' costs. This money was received in early 2018.

At the end of October the congregation was informed of the unfolding events regarding our plans and were invited to ask any questions. I was also invited to share this ongoing journey at the presbytery meeting in December with enthusiastic support from members of the court.

It was a very exciting day when we heard the news in early December that Odawa was successful in being awarded the funding to establish an Early Years Centre in Ottawa, with its central location in the lower hall of our church and with other satellite locations. They were going to be awarded \$1.5 million for the renovations to the hall and another \$2 million for set up and operations for the EYC to be completed in 2018 and with more funds for operations for a second year.

In order to facilitate moving forward with the establishment of the EYC, our congregation unanimously supported a motion to empower the Odawa Working Group to negotiate a long-term lease with Odawa. This invitation was then communicated to the Odawa Council in mid-December with great hope in our hearts. At that congregational meeting in December we also created a small committee that would begin developing a renovation plan for our sanctuary to accommodate our own needs and to consider how the upper level could be developed as a multi-purpose space to be used for cultural and arts events of the wider community including Odawa. By the end of the year we were waiting with great hope in our hearts to hear confirmation that Odawa's Council had accepted the proposal and were ready to move forward with signing the lease agreement with us.

The Odawa Working Group has indeed been very courageous and persistent in pursuing this goal of growing our relationship with Odawa over several years, despite significant upheavals in our relationship, walking together this road of reconciliation with its many up and downs. We have learned the value of deep listening, the process of letting go of our sense of ownership of our space, patience in waiting for communication and affirmative response. We also greatly appreciate the efforts of the Ontario Government in launching this important initiative to support the growth of Indigenous children and their families, so important in the work of reconciliation and healing. Although we have found this journey to be both discouraging at times and exhilarating and hopeful at other times, we are committed to pursue this sacred journey as we are called to create new paths of hope and understanding together.

Respectfully Submitted by The Reverend Laurie McKnight



# Worship Report

"Worship the LORD with gladness" (Psalm 100)

**WORSHIP PLANNING TEAM:** The Reverend Laurie McKnight, Paul Grose, Bernice Aye, Kay Blais, Jacqueline Potvin and Linda Paul. Committee met thrice: January 15, May 8 and on September 17. Thank you for all your assistance and commitment to the planning process this year.

**SPACE:** we had our services in the sanctuary and in the hall. The hall was used for our cafe-style services and also on occasions when there was a problem in the sanctuary e.g. breakdown of heating system. Many thanks to our custodian William Potts-Halpin and all those who helped with reconfiguring and tidying up our worship space. Shaun Lacelle was our temporary custodian when William was away.

**READINGS: Bible Readings:** We used the Common Lectionary readings. A Bible reading signup sheet was placed in the hall and announcements made to encourage participation from congregational members. Rev. Laurie or the preacher read the passages if no one signed up for them. We also had group dramatization of the readings and storytelling the readings from memory. On Pentecost Sunday, we added another reading format of several readers reading in different languages as a simulation of the Babel-like sounds that must have been heard on the original Pentecost Day.

**Minute for Mission:** Used suggested readings from the United Church's Mission & Service booklet. Some of the readings were presented in a video format. The time slot for Minute for Mission is also used to present local outreach projects e.g. reports from the Odawa planning group, Christmas Angel project, etc. Thank you to all readers of the Bible and Minute for Mission. We encourage more people to volunteer to read the Bible and Minute for Mission. Bible readings can be given in English/French or other languages.

**MUSICAL MINISTRY:** Choir Director Paul Grose. Our services are continually enhanced by this wonderful ministry of music led by our choir. Rev. Laurie worked closely with our Music Director, Paul Grose to choose appropriate hymns and anthems to create thematic worship services throughout the year. In addition to the use of organ and piano, we also had a variety of musical instruments including trumpet, guitar, clarinet, violin, flute, tambourine, drums, etc. Many thanks to the congregation for being fully engaged in making a joyful noise to the God. In addition, we appreciate the musical skills (voice and variety of instruments) provided from time to time through the participation of former choir members when they visit, individual congregation members, family members and guests from our larger Christian neighbourhood. See more details in the Choir Report.

## 2017 SPECIAL SERVICES:

**Special theme services:** Scottish heritage by wearing tartan at end of January for Robbie Burns Day; Black History Month Service in February; service in February with Worshiplude which included youth from newly formed Quebec Presbytery; Palm/Passion Sunday and Maundy Thursday, Good Friday/Easter in April; Camping/Earth Sunday in April; Asian Heritage Sunday in May; Aboriginal Sunday in June planned with the help of Patrick Wilmot and Sharon Angnakak; the annual River Service at Louise Reid and Richard Asselin's cottage at the end of June; welcome back service and BBQ in September for students; church crawl for students in early September; Season of Creation in September; Remembrance Day service in November; Anniversary Service in November; Christmas Eve Candlelight; lay-led services and joint services. We were honoured and grateful to have been included, once again, in the tradition of families of some of our congregation members and some neighbours who attend our River Service, Easter, and Christmas Eve services every year.

**Joint services: Summer service exchange with MacKay United Church in 2017:** We had three joint services where one church was closed for that day. Sunday July 2 at St. Paul's-Eastern with service led by Rev Peter Woods and saxophone music; Sunday July 30 at St. Paul's-Eastern United led by Rev. Laurie McKnight and Sunday August 6 at McKay United with service led by Rev. Laurie McKnight. Some of the objectives of these joint services are to help manage resources, encourage engagement with our sister church and share ministry personnel during the quiet summers months when congregation numbers are fewer than usual. We thank everyone who was able to visit McKay and also welcomed the MacKay congregation to our church. We hope to continue these summer exchanges and encourage more participation from our members.

**Holy Communion:** Led by Rev. Laurie McKnight, often assisted by Rev John Moor, a Retired Minister or Michelle Robichaud who is a candidate supply. Homemade bread provided mostly by Rev. John Moor and occasionally by Rev. Laurie McKnight. Grape juice, rice cakes and other non-gluten crackers provided by Bernice Aye. Bernice recruited and organized the list of servers. Thank you to all who helped with the set-up, take-down and clean-up. First communion of the year was served by members of the church council. As much as possible, servers for the World Communion services reflected a variety of cultures and languages. Two styles of serving Communion: the congregation were served twice in the pews (on Palm/Passion Sunday and on World Communion Sunday) and for the other services, the congregants came forward to two stations.

- Sunday March 5, 2017 First Sunday in Lent 10:30 a.m.
- Sunday April 9, 2017 Palm/Passion Sunday 10:30 a.m.
- Sunday April 13, 2017 Maundy Thursday 7 pm with foot washing
- Sunday June 4 Pentecost Sunday 10:30 a.m.
- Sunday August 13, 2017 10:30 a.m.
- Sunday October 1 , 2017 World Communion Sunday 10:30 a.m.
- Sunday December 3, 2017 First Sunday in Advent 10:30 a.m.
- Sunday December 24, 2017 Christmas Eve service 7:30 p.m.

**Café-Style Worship Services:** provides a more relaxed style of worship and gives us a somewhat intimate setting with the opportunity to be more involved in worship. It is also a chance for student-led service, for in-depth Bible study, visioning and other relevant topics. We had one cafe-style service on October 29 Reformation Sunday. Thank you to the presenters, Daniel Stockemer about Martin Luther and Katelyn Cody who attended the World Council of Reformed Churches 500th anniversary celebration of the Protestant Reformation in Germany in June. She was appointed as a youth delegate by the General Council of the United Church.

**Sunday Evening Service:** Rev. Laurie discontinued the monthly evening services due to lack of participation.

**BIBLES: Bibles in different languages:** To help make the reading of the Bible more accessible to our multi-lingual congregation, guests, we have purchased several non-English Bibles for use during service. They are on a shelf at the back of the sanctuary. Announcements about these Bibles were made during church service and also placed in the church bulletin. ***More English Bibles:*** After observing that there were fewer Bibles than expected in the pews, Wayne MacWhirter donated money for the purchase of more Bibles. Thanks to his donation, more NRSV Bibles have been purchased and placed in the pews.

### **GUEST PREACHERS/PRESENTERS:**

- November 19, 2017 Anniversary Service: Deacon Christine Jannasch, Chaplain at The Well Drop-in Centre for Women and Women with Children and Pastoral Chaplain at Christ Church Cathedral.
- Sunday July 2, 2017 Joint Service: Rev Peter Wood from McKay United
- October 15th, 2017: Rabbi Steve Garten (retired) from Temple Israel Ottawa
- 26th February, 2017 Black History Month Service: Felix Bigirimana from Église Unie St. Marc d'Ottawa.
- June 11, 2017 Aboriginal Sunday service : Sharon Angnakak, Mike Angnakak, (Sharon Angnakak's grandfather), Patrick Wilmot, Adam Gauthier (member of Odawa Board and the Sojourners Church)
- October 29<sup>th</sup> and November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation Daniel Stockemer and Katelyn Cody.
- November 11, 2017 Remembrance Day Service:
- Lay-led services: Bernice Aye, Candidates for Ministry: our own Michelle Robichaud and Patricia Power from MacKay United.

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY:** Michelle Robichaud continued as our Sunday school coordinator for most of the year until she resigned to focus on preparing for her application to be a Candidate of Ministry. We thank her for her devoted work with the children (and young at heart). We were pleased to welcome Elaine Grose who began leading the Sunday school ministry in September. The children have taken to her and we are pleased that with her engagement, we continue to have our Sunday school available for our regular children as well as any child who shows up on Sunday mornings. We are especially thrilled that Elaine has joined her father Paul in church work. During the Time for the Young and Young at Heart section of the service, we had a variety of presentations from several members of the congregation that included story readings, introduction to worm composting, Aboriginal stories, videos, etc.

### **FELLOWSHIP AND HOSPITALITY:**

***Sunday morning:*** We always have coffee (and tea and juice) time after each service on Sunday mornings. This is a vital part of our ministry where we have a few minutes to visit with each other, so we thank all those who faithfully provide nutritious refreshments and for the kitchen committee who keep it well stocked, clean and organized. Thanks to Heather Oudit who organizes this ministry of hospitality and friendship. We also have other times when, with potlucks, Anniversary service meals, Christmas dinner, etc. we continue to live out the verse in Acts 2 " They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people." - NIV. There have also been several opportunities when we have held each other in prayer, helped each other in sorrow and in celebration at the church and in each other's homes.

***Greeters:*** We appreciate all who stood at the door, handed out the church bulletin and welcomed everyone who came in to our church services in the sanctuary and in the hall. Special

thanks to Wil Wilson and Patrick Wilmot for their faithful ministry. We thank everyone who made extra effort to welcome visitors to the church service and all our other events. Keep up the good work.

**Offertory:** We also thank everyone who helped collect and present the offering including Wil Wilson, Kay Blais, Rev. John Moor, Wendy Bergeron and some choir members.

**Christmas Card Ministry:** Thank you to Derek Carlisle for organizing the Christmas card writing ministry to maintain relationship with our friends and members who now live far and wide in Canada and elsewhere in the world.

**Garden:** Thank you to all the gardeners-- our custodian, church members and our "street" friends. The garden continues to be a source of aesthetic joy and provides fresh vegetables to share.

**Outdoor service:** We appreciate and are thankful to Louise Reid and Richard Asselin for sharing their home on the banks of the Ottawa with us for our River service.

**ACCESSIBILITY & TECHNOLOGY USE:** We have a few large print copies of More Voices hymnbooks that are available at the back of the sanctuary for use during services. . Some of our service bulletins are in large print. Rev. Laurie makes available typed copies of her sermon for those who request it including those who were not able to hear clearly and those who wish to read the sermon at a later date. To enhance the audio accessibility of our members, we encourage everyone who gives a presentation or announcement during church service to speak directly into the microphones. In addition to printed copies of church service bulletin, we continue to project the order of service, including hymn lyrics, on PowerPoint slides for more visual accessibility. Thank you to Grant Gilliland for creating the slides, setting up and using the projector during services. The projector is also available for use when another person leads the service during Laurie and/or Grant's absence. Thank you also to church members for contributing photos to be shown on the slides.

**DECORATIONS:** Thank you to all who helped to decorate inside and outside the church to continually maintain a beautiful place for worship. We cleared out old and tattered decorative items and purchased more decorative items e.g. new Advent wreath, candles, swathes of fabric, etc. Regular floral arrangements in front of the sanctuary throughout the year were organized by Betty Mackenzie and sometimes by Wayne. Christmas season decorations are still organized by Wayne MacWhirter. We are grateful to Wayne for donating a large sized nativity figurines to our church in honour of his parents. In November we purchased a new larger advent wreath for the sanctuary purchased from our Memorial Fund. We continue to use and appreciate the crèche and nativity scene made by the late Margaret Bray, wife of our Jack Bray. William Potts-Halpin's beautiful collage on the wall of the choir loft created for the season of Pentecost was very much enjoyed by all. Thanks to Val Johnson for decorating the hall for coffee time on special occasions e.g. Valentine's Day, Easter and Halloween. We are pleased to have the plants Cécile Stockemer gave us to babysit and others at the back of the sanctuary while she was in Europe. Thanks to other plants provided by other church members.

**WORSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY:** Laurie offered services at the Perly and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre in the spring and also at the Edinburgh Retirement Home on first Thursday of the month. A special time of conversation with the residents after worship has become a regular part of their mornings. Thank you to the church members who joined and helped out with some of these services especially to Marg Bennet, Jacques Renaud and Helen Smith. If you are interested in this ministry with seniors or would like to help out, contact Rev. Laurie.

**ECUMENICAL PARTICIPATION:**

**World Day of Prayer:** The service was held this year in early March at the Notre Dame Cathedral and was attended by four women from our congregation to support the work of the Women's Inter-Church Council.

**Healing Services** with St Joseph's Catholic Church: Helen Smith and Rev Laurie participated in this ecumenical healing ministry, hosting the service in the winter. However, due to the lack of participation by our own members we decided to discontinue working with this ministry. St Joe's welcomed Helen and Laurie in the fall for a special tea of gratitude for our shared ministry. We really appreciated that gesture and our friendships which had grown over the years.

**Special Musical Concert on May 20<sup>th</sup>.** Our choir participated in a musical concert with the Association of Ghana Methodist churches in Canada held at the Arlington Woods Free Methodist Church, Ottawa.

**BAPTISMS:** Offered when requested. We had 2 infant baptisms this year.

**WEDDINGS:** there were two weddings celebrated this year by Rev Laurie but off site. The church was rented by outsiders for their weddings.

**FUNERALS/ MEMORIALS/CELEBRATIONS OF LIFE**

Memorial for Greg Bennett, our former caretaker who died in February, was held in September at the Beachwood Cemetery. Members of the congregation also attended a funeral for Enid Arscott, beloved choir and church member whose husband was the former minister Rev Arscott. The choir graciously provided leadership at some of our funerals.

**Major birthday celebrations:** Derek Carlisle's 50th birthday with a very joyful musical concert held on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> in our sanctuary. Videos of the special evening are available.

We give thanks to our Lord Jesus Christ who inspires us to live this gospel life so that we might be encouraged, healed and strengthened to discover abundant life. Thank you all for sharing in the life of our worshiping community, sharing your many gifts of music, prayer, compassion, healing, creativity and love. The offer of real sanctuary is an important ministry in our community and in a world filled with fear and animosity.

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another ..." NIV  
Hebrews 10:24

Submitted by Rev. Laurie McKnight and Bernice Aye

## Choir Report

"This past year the choir again undertook an inspiring repertoire of sacred music, ranging from meditative Latin chant to soul-filled gospel, following the mood of the liturgical seasons. The choir performed a new Easter cantata in April, "The Passion and the Promise", by Lloyd Larson and Mark Hayes, involving a dramatic processional entry from the back of the sanctuary. In addition to weekly Sunday morning anthems reflecting the central scriptural message of the service, the choir took part in two special concerts. The first was at Arlington Woods Free Methodist Church in Ottawa South, at the invitation of the Ghana Methodist Church Circuit Choir, on 20 May 2017, where the choir co-mingled with Montreal, Toronto, and Ottawa choirs in an exciting evening of Ghanaian, Ethiopian, and Pentecostal choir singing and dancing. The second was Derek Carlisle's Golden Birthday/Thank You at St. Paul's-Eastern, on 28 October, where the choir joined with an amazing array of Ottawa talent for an eclectic evening of sacred and secular music -- nearly three hours of vocal, choral and instrumental numbers featuring professional and amateur performers, all with a connection to Derek. That evening was a reminder to pause and celebrate the presence of friends while they are with us. We thank the many soloists who performed with and supported the choir throughout the year, including Pat Rooney on violin, Geoff McGuire on trumpet and voice, Martha Milne and Frank Duern with vocal solos and guitar, Irene Grose on violin and piano, Peter Grose on clarinet, Rev. Pete Woods on saxophone, Liz Gray on temple bells and voice, Rev. Laurie on flute, guitar and voice, Wayne MacWhirter with a Christmas Eve solo, and others. During the year, choir members faced and came through serious illness, death in the family, and other setbacks. The choir was there to provide support and prayer through difficult times.

No storm can shake my inmost calm  
While to that Refuge clinging  
Since Christ is Lord of Heaven and Earth,  
How can I keep from singing?

Above the tumult and the strife,  
I hear the music ringing;  
It sounds an echo in my soul  
How can I keep from singing?'

The music we sing on Sunday often stays with us throughout the week. We thank the congregation for your support and encouragement and hope that the joy we give equals the joy we receive in singing."

Paul Grose, Music Director.

## Christian Development Report 2017

**Our children's ministry** on Sunday mornings continued under the leadership of Michelle Robichaud until the end of June. She provided a story for the Young and Young at Heart portion of the worship services which supported the liturgical theme, engaging children and adults alike. Jacqueline Potvin and Nancy Thornton helped out in her absence.

In the fall, the position of Children's Ministry Co-ordinator was ably filled by Elaine Gross whose gentle, caring presence with the children is a real blessing. Children continue to gather at a small table at the back of the sanctuary to draw or create prior to the story. The class time is held in the parlour downstairs using the curriculum from the Seasons of the Spirit by Woodlake Press. The number of children who participate on a Sunday morning varies between one and six children and more when there are visitors.

A **Bible Study/prayer group** of 3 -6 devoted people met throughout most of the year on Wednesday mornings each week except on the days that the Sandy Hill Seniors Network met. We used the Narrative lectionary readings for the coming Sunday as our focus for reflection and also using the book "We Make the Road by Walking: a yearlong Quest for Spiritual Formation" by Brian McLaren. In the fall we shifted to "A Study Guide for the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation". Everyone is welcomed to join the conversation.

**Study Sessions:** Rev. Laurie attended the following conferences and study sessions:  
January 2017: Laurie attended the [Epiphany Explorations Spiritual conference](#) in Victoria, BC. She also attended monthly study group on the theme of Process Theology at the Madawaska Institute near Burnstown, Ontario. In November Laurie attended the first session for Transitional Ministry (Interim Ministry training) held in Cleveland, Ohio.

*Report submitted by Rev Laurie McKnight*

## Evergreens Report 2017

The Evergreens met regularly this year at Perkins Restaurant, 1130 St Laurent Blvd. on the third Tuesday of each month. We had an average attendance of 10. Our numbers are small but we feel that the fellowship we share is meaningful as we are regularly joined by past members and friends of our congregation we don't see regularly, and we are able to renew and strengthen our friendships.

We thank our faithful members for their contributions to "The Looney Bag" which is passed around at each lunch and from that we are able to make donations to good causes. We also thank those who cheerfully provide rides to members.

While most of us who attend the luncheons are retired, please remember that anyone who is free for a noon lunch is more than welcome to join us.

### **Evergreens Financial Report:**

|                      |          |
|----------------------|----------|
| Opening balance:     | \$ 80.63 |
| Income and Interest: | \$189.72 |

Donation: Odawa Native Friendship Center: \$200.00

Balance: \$70.35

Heather Oudit, Convener and Treasurer

## **Presbytery Report**

The main business item at Presbytery in 2017 and early 2018 was voting on 5 remits that flowed out of the United Church's General Council meeting in 2015. St. Paul's-Eastern also voted on these remits at the Council level following consultations with the Congregation.

The following remits were approved by both Presbytery and St. Paul's-Eastern. All four of these were also approved nation-wide

- Shifting from a four court United Church structure to three. The three courts will now be the congregation, a new region (blend of the current Presbytery and Conference) and the national General Council

- \_ Elimination of the transfer and settlement process for Ministers. It had pretty much ceased to exist in actual practice

- Setting up an Office of Vocation for Ministers

- Establishing a new funding model for the three courts. Little will change out of this for congregations in the Ottawa Presbytery

In early 2018, the Presbytery and St. Paul's-Eastern Council both voted "No" on a remit that would have incorporated Diaconal and Lay Designated Ministers into the category of Ordained Ministers. The national results are not yet known at the time of this writing.

The Montreal and Ottawa Conference hosted its second-last meeting as a one-day business and ordination combination in Hudson, Quebec. Delegates from around the Conference also participated through on-line remote sites, but there was frustration by those in Hudson and at the remote sites with technical delays on participation and voting during the business section.

It was with great surprise during the Conference President's visit to Presbytery last fall that we learned that the business portion of the last Montreal and Ottawa meeting in the spring of 2018 will entirely be conducted on-line. There will also be a one-day in-person celebration of Ministry and farewell to the Conference gathering, once again in Hudson, Quebec.

In response to this development, the St. Paul's-Eastern Council passed the following motion unanimously.

Whereas the Montreal and Ottawa Conference of the United Church of Canada will be meeting for a final time in the spring of 2018;

Whereas the United Church was founded following years of face-to-face interaction by members of the three original denominations leading up to 1925;

Whereas the electronic portions of the Hudson Conference gatherings indicated that we are not yet where we should be in terms of technology use for meeting facilitation;

Whereas there is a need for pastoral charges to empower the elected General Council Commissioners in-person with the will of the court on all the church transformational changes before us;

Whereas the final business meeting requires proper consideration on how we transfer our core Conference ministries to the new regions; and

Whereas there is also a need for the plenary to provide Commissioners with insight on the multitude of other General Council motions in the packet that will be developed next spring.

**Be it resolved** that the St. Paul's-Eastern pastoral charge opposes an electronic-only business meeting of the final Montreal and Ottawa Conference;

**Be it further resolved** that St. Paul's-Eastern supports a cost-recovery in-person business meeting with congregations paying a uniform fee to enable travel subsidy for far-flung pastoral charges; and

**Be it further resolved** that the St. Paul's-Eastern pastoral charge happily offers up its facilities free of charge to the Conference as a potential site for the final business plenary and ordination of new clergy;

At the time of this writing, no formal response from Conference has ever been received. We have learned through Presbytery channels, that there will be no change to the plans for the electronic-only business meeting as plans have already been made. We cannot recall the pastoral charges ever being consulted on these plans. While an in-person meeting in Hudson will serve well for ordination of clergy and a chance to say "farewell" to the Conference, the business portion this particular year would be better done in person. The on-line world may be suited for shopping and dating, but in this age of increasing secularism, Christians need to gather together in person for fellowship and deliberations on new paths for the church.

With my upcoming move, St. Paul's-Eastern will require a new temporary Presbytery representative in the final 10 months of the Ottawa Presbytery's existence. Please keep me informed of developments with the new region.

Let me take this occasion as well to thank the entire congregation for love and support my entire 24 years in Ottawa. I will miss you all, but will return for visits. Looking forward to seeing the outcome of all the exciting changes ahead.

Respectively submitted,

Derek Carlisle, Presbytery Rep

## **Board of Trustees**

### **Annual Report for the Year 2017**

I am pleased to submit this report to the congregation of St. Paul's-Eastern United Church (SPEUC) on behalf of the Board of Trustees following my second year as Chair.

The Trustees hold legal title to all the real and personal property of the congregation (e.g. lands, offerings, investments, buildings) for the use and benefit of the congregation as part of the United Church of Canada. (Given that congregations are not incorporated, they cannot legally own property themselves.) The activities of the Trustees are restricted and governed variously by public statute, the United Church's Trusts of Model Deed, and the lawful directions of the Church Council and of the other Courts of the United Church having jurisdiction.

#### **Membership**

The following persons served as SPEUC Trustees throughout 2017: Nancy Thornton, Grant Gilliland, Wayne MacWhirter, Eugene Lang, the Rev. Laurie McKnight and myself (Geoff McGuire).

#### **Meetings/Consultations**

In the absence of any pressing business, the Trustees did not meet formally in 2017. However, a subset of Trustees did meet with our financial advisor at RBC Dominion Securities, Luc Perron, during the year to review the state and management of the portfolio.

#### **Donations**

In 2017, we were honoured by legacy gifts of \$2,816.91 from Edith Knowles Woodburn through the United Church Foundation, \$500 from the estate of long-time SPEUC caretaker Greg Bennett, as well a gift of \$10,000 from a member of the congregation in memory of Greg Bennett.

### State of the Investments

Those funds held by the Trustees that are not required to meet the immediate operating expenses of the congregation are invested with RBC Dominion Securities and managed by our financial advisor, Luc Perron, according to a conservative-to-moderate risk profile consisting of 60% fixed income and 40% equities. Each month, we receive a financial report on our holdings.

The year-end totals for the past several years are shown below:

| <b>Year Ended</b> | <b>Balance</b> |  | <b>Year Ended</b> | <b>Balance</b>      |
|-------------------|----------------|--|-------------------|---------------------|
| 2012              | \$495,817.29   |  | 2015              | \$613,857.68        |
| 2013              | \$560,629.00   |  | 2016              | \$460,470.43        |
| 2014              | \$573,078.00   |  | <b>2017</b>       | <b>\$361,038.34</b> |

The 2017 year-end total is the sum of the totals for our three investment accounts:

| <b>Account</b>                                                  |                           | <b>Market Value at December 29, 2017</b>                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Canadian Dollar A+ Account<br>(#370-34996-1-0)                  |                           | 0.00 CAD                                                                                         |
| Private Investment Management (PIM) Account<br>(#376-63887-1-8) | Canadian Dollar Component | 296,322.02 CAD                                                                                   |
|                                                                 | U.S. Dollar Component     | 51,476.55 USD<br>X exchange rate at December 29, 2017<br>(1 USD = 1.2572 CAD)<br>= 64,716.32 CAD |
| Canadian Dollar Account<br>(#503-24785-1-2)                     |                           | 1.86 CAD                                                                                         |
| <b>All Accounts Combined</b>                                    |                           | <b>361,038.34 CAD</b>                                                                            |

Embedded in the above holdings are the following restricted funds:

| <b>Description</b>                                              | <b>Amount</b>      | <b>Comments</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Restricted proceeds from the sale of the Manse                  | \$204,000          | Presbytery approved the sale of the Manse on the condition that \$264,000 of the proceeds be invested to generate income for the Minister's housing allowance. The \$264,000 itself could not be spent without approval from Presbytery.<br><b>Update:</b> On April 27, 2017, Presbytery Executive passed a resolution allowing SPEUC to spend \$60,000 of the Manse Funds on roof repair, on the understanding that this amount be repaid in future if possible. This decision effectively reduced the restricted amount from \$264,000 to \$204,000. |
| Mrs. Wilda MacLachlan Memorial Fund                             | \$50,000           | Special-purpose charitable trust. Donor specified that only the interest could be spent.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Dr. Lorne E. MacLachlan UCW Memorial Endowment Fund             | \$5,000            | Special-purpose charitable trust. Donor specified that only the interest could be spent.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Mr. Thomas W. Keenan Fund                                       | \$20,000           | Special-purpose charitable trust. Donor specified that only the interest could be spent and that the principal would vest in his grandson if the congregation ever disbanded.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Total restricted funds</b>                                   | <b>\$279,000</b>   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Total funds, less restricted funds, at December 29, 2017</b> | <b>\$82,038.34</b> | This is the amount available to spend, if needed, without restriction or special permission.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

### **Investment Fees**

The Board of Trustees pays RBC Dominion Securities an annual managed account fee of 1.65% of the average value of the portfolio + Harmonized Sales Tax (HST), in four quarterly payments. The total fees paid in 2017 were \$6,956.99 + 904.41 HST = \$7,861.40. Most of the HST (roughly 70%) is recovered through our HST rebate for registered charities.

### **Transfers from Investments to Operating Fund in 2017**

In keeping with past practice, the Board of Trustees transferred funds from investments to operations to cover, or contribute to, the cost of insurance, the portion of Minister's salary formerly denoted as "housing allowance," capital projects (e.g. roof replacement) and deficits in operations:

| <b>Date</b>                                                   | <b>Description</b>                                                         | <b>Amount</b>       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| January 13                                                    | Second housing allowance contribution for 2016                             | \$1,420.00          |
|                                                               | FISHBURN SHERIDAN & ASSOCIATES LTD. (roof project engineer) – 2016 Invoice | \$1,681.44          |
| May 11                                                        | FISHBURN SHERIDAN & ASSOCIATES LTD. (roof project engineer)                | \$1,050.90          |
|                                                               | P&G Roofing – Progress payment                                             | \$19,577.25         |
| June 27                                                       | FISHBURN SHERIDAN & ASSOCIATES LTD. (roof project engineer)                | \$630.54            |
|                                                               | First housing allowance contribution for 2017                              | \$2,268.00          |
|                                                               | Estimated amount for 2016 insurance premium                                | \$8,000.00          |
| July 21                                                       | Transfer to cover deficit in church operating account                      | \$10,000            |
|                                                               | P&G Roofing – Final progress payment                                       | \$61,172.55         |
|                                                               | P&G Roofing – Holdback payment                                             | \$29,380.00         |
| <b>Total transfers from investments to operations in 2017</b> |                                                                            | <b>\$135,180.68</b> |

### **Support for Roof Project**

In 2017, St. Paul's–Eastern completed its roof repair project begun in 2016. To help cover the invoices from the engineer and the roofer, \$113,492.68 (HST included) was transferred from the investments to the operating account over the year. Of this amount, \$9,099.50 was subsequently recovered through the HST rebate for registered charities and used to support operations. If we look at both years of the project (2016 and 2017), we see that a total of \$298,049.37 was withdrawn from our investments to support the roof project. However, once the recoverable portion of the HST (roughly 70%) on all invoices was recovered, the net cost of the entire project

was only \$276,969.39.<sup>1</sup> Since the difference of \$21,079.98 was never returned to the investments, that amount should properly be viewed as an additional transfer to support operations over the past two years rather than as a transfer to support the roof project

### **Analysis**

Our investments continued to shrink during the first half of 2017 as roughly \$135,000 was withdrawn to cover roof-related expenditures, insurance, housing allowance contribution and operating deficits.

In consultation with our financial adviser, we elected to close out our Canadian Dollar A+ account managed by Connor, Clark & Lunn, retaining only our accounts directly managed by Luc Perron, in order to simplify management of the portfolio and reduce our management fees. The large withdrawals in the first half of the year make it difficult to calculate our return on investment for the year as a whole. However, following the last withdrawals in July, the investments rebounded somewhat, growing approximately \$17,500 (5.25%) for the remainder of the year, net of managed account fees and a temporary deposit of \$10,000 in October.

### **Future Support**

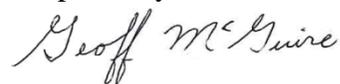
If we exclude the restricted funds shown above (\$279,000) from our total holdings as of December 29, 2017 (\$361,038.34), we had \$82,038.34 of unrestricted funds available to spend at our discretion at the beginning of 2018. Assuming our current pattern of monthly deficits continues, and absent any major change in the market value of our investments, we will exhaust our unrestricted funds by the middle of 2018. The Trustees will therefore have to seek Presbytery approval in the spring to spend additional Manse Funds in order to continue to support SPEUC operations through transfers from the investments.

We are encouraged by the ongoing efforts of SPEUC to enter into a lease agreement with the Odawa Native Friendship Centre in the lower level of the church building. Such an arrangement would further the ongoing mission of the broader United Church to achieve reconciliation with Indigenous peoples while, at the same time, providing much-needed financial support for the congregation.

### **Appreciation**

I extend my sincere thanks to the other members of the Board and to the congregation for its support. I would also like to personally thank our Minister, the Rev. Laurie McKnight, Church Treasurer Jacques Renaud, Property Chair Grant Gilliland, Financial Advisor Luc Perron and Bookkeeper Nancy York for continuing to share their knowledge and insights.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Board,



Geoff McGuire  
Chair, Board of Trustees

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<sup>1</sup> In our 2016 report, we indicated that the entire roof project would cost about \$300,000. However, we had not accounted for the HST rebate for registered charities (nearly 70% of HST), which reduced the net cost of the project.

# St. Paul's Eastern United Church

*We seek to be faithful to the call of God through Jesus Christ who reveals God's love for the world.*

*We are called to be an open, nurturing, loving church family, which invites people of diverse backgrounds to deepen their faith in God.*

*Rooted in our Christian heritage, we are called to renew ourselves and our community.*

*The Spirit calls us to work with others to make a difference in our neighbourhood.*

*We hear the Spirit's call to be good stewards of our gifts and of creation.*

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*Organist/Music Director:* Paul Grose

Phone: 613-834-1712

Email: [paul.grose@sympatico.ca](mailto:paul.grose@sympatico.ca)

*Church Administrator:* Patrick Saumur

Office Hours:

Thursday; 8:30 am – 12:00 pm,

Tuesday and Friday; 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

*Custodian:* William Potts-Halpin

Phone: 613-255-3086