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PASTORAL REFLECTIONS ON 2018

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "what are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" Luke 24: 13-17

I have come away to Stillpoint House of Prayer, just north of Calabogie, to reflect upon the journey we shared last year as sojourners in this life of faith. This is a good place to be as the history of this house of prayer was to offer hospitality and rest to the potagers of the early 1800's, who risked their lives daily guiding the logs down the Madawaska River to their destination. No doubt much of that lumber ended up in the beautiful homes in Sandy Hill. Stillpoint also offered a home for the local teacher and priest while they served the community.

It seems as though much of our purpose is to serve the needs of the sojourners in Ottawa, people on the move as, students, tourists, transients, government workers, protesters, seniors, spiritual seekers. We began our year as we have over the past eight years, welcoming youth from Quebec Presbytery, the same group who have come from Montreal and the Eastern Townships to take part in Worshiplude, a youth event sponsored by Ottawa Presbytery. They camp out in the hall for the weekend and enjoy the activities, then breakfast and Sunday morning worship with us, blessing us with their singing and drumming. Our hospitality is embodied in our participation in Doors Open Ottawa the first weekend in June, in our monthly Evergreens lunches, the men's breakfast (and some women) and the Sandy Hill Seniors Lunch, all of which you will read more about in our reports.

In the midst of our ongoing ministry, we also discerned a unique call to walk the road of Right Relations, which found expression in supporting Odawa Native Friendship centre to provide an Early Years Centre (EYC). It felt as though God was calling us to help provide healing place for the children and parents of Indigenous and Inuit families given our historical involvement with the Residential Schools in Canada. This was a path to reconciliation.

Although we experienced challenges throughout the year in making this dream a reality, we persisted in good faith until Odawa made a final decision in September that they would not enter into a 20 year lease with our church. This has lead us into a period of disappointment and for some of us a feeling of grief and loss and worry about the future, not unlike those two disciples on the road to Emmaus in the days after Jesus had died. They shared with each other many questions, doubts, and fears about what it all meant, wondering if the dreams that Jesus had planted in their hearts had died with him.

However, those two disciples did not recognize that Jesus had drawn beside them and was walking with them all along, listening deeply to their sorrow, perplexity, and wondering. Is this not what the resurrection journey looks like and feels like? Jesus appears when we are taking risks of faith, learning to let go of our possessions and to trust where God is takin us, opening ourselves to new relationships and possibilities. All of this leads to the risk of failure which, of course, is hard, but an important part of the spiritual journey.

This is when the Risen Jesus joins us, breaks open our faith story, connects us with the biblical narrative, and joins us when we break bread together, to heal and nourish us. I believe

we feel God's presence whenever we have our fellowship time around the table, a continuation of our weekly worship and a sacred time. The recognition that Christ is with us, allows us to dream again, to open ourselves anew to the possibilities where God will lead us, to serve in ways that are life-giving.

At a time when it felt like the dream of sharing our building for work of healing was lost, we were approached by a former adherent of our church, Peter Flegel, who has another exciting vision for transforming our church. He envisions it becoming a multi-purpose space and a centre for research and healing concerning the growth of populism in the world, which is especially harmful to people of African descent. This centre is to be called the Mathieu da Costa Centre for Global Harmony which he hopes would be funded by the private donors, the federal government, and international donors, as well as the United Church. Our involvement in this dream is still unfolding.

The Holy Spirit has been very much alive in our midst as within a day of being approached by Peter Flegel, we were also approached by the Rev. Rob Dalgleish, staff for Edge at the General Council Office, along with his newly hired real estate person, Kristopher Travella, to consider allowing them to take over the development of our property. This would be a pilot project in the United Church. Of course we heartily agreed and are continuing to live into what this new relationship with the General Council Office will look like. The Spirit is moving so quickly now it's hard to catch our breath!

One of the ways we were also engaged in God's call was to support the work of Everyone's Sister, a community group, which worked diligently to welcome a mother and her child, seeking to begin a new life here. See the report on page 23.

In September, you helped Grant and I forge a new beginning by joining us in the celebration of our marriage at Norway Bay, an experience of great joy and the fulfillment of our dream. Grant and my hearts were fulfilled by the blessing by my colleague Rev. Susan Butler-Jones, the joyful singing of "You Raise Me Up" by our choir led by Paul Grose, the soaring duet by Martha Milne and Frank Duern, and by the Irish jigs and reels of Patrick Rooney's band as we danced. We have both held the ministry here at St Paul's-Eastern United close to our hearts and we feel blessed to be part of this church family.

So let us nourish our hearts and souls as we walk this journey of faith, through times when we are touched by sorrow and disappointment, and times when we are enlivened by dreams and possibilities, knowing that the Risen Christ walks with us to listen, teach, and encourage us along our way. You are courageous, resilient, and faithful people. I feel honoured to walk beside you in this journey of hope, healing, and love. Let us stay open to the new possibilities God has in mind for us this coming year for our personal lives, our church family, and our community.

With gratitude and love,
Laurie

In Memoriam 2018 and Congregational Statistics for 2018

Number of Persons under Pastoral Care (Members & Adherents)	108
Baptisms	0
Marriages	6
Funerals	1
Communicants Received by Profession of Faith	2 Susan Mowers Gail Moore
Communicants Received by Transfer	0
Communicants Received by Adult Baptism	0
Communicants Removed by Death	1 Jacques Renaud
Communicants Removed By Transfer	1 Derek Carlisle
Communicants Removed By Council	0

Directory of Officers and Staff at Dec. 31, 2018

Ministry Team

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

Support Staff

Patrick Saumur, Church Administrator
William Potts-Halpin, Caretaker
Helen Sedgwick, Bookkeeper

Church Council

Rev. Laurie McKnight - (Ex Officio)
Nancy Thornton - Chair
Tracey Wilmot - Secretary
Grant Gilliland - Property/ Presbytery
Patrick Wilmot - Ministry and Personnel
Geoff McGuire - Trustee/ Treasurer
Cécile Stockemer - Outreach
Gail Moore – Member-at-Large

Committees

Worship Planning

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

Ministry & Personnel

Patrick Wilmot, Louise Reid, Daniel
Stockemer

Property

Grant Gilliland, Karl Rowlee

Pastoral Care

Betty MacKenzie, Marg Bennett, Heather
Oudit, Helen Smith

Kitchen & Coffee

Kay Blais, Heather Oudit, Helen Link

Evergreens

Heather Oudit

Open Table Liaison

Brenna Manders

Trustees

Geoff McGuire, Nancy Thornton, Grant
Gilliland, Laurie McKnight, Wayne
MacWhirter, Susan Mowers

Mission Enthusiast

Bernice Aye

Volunteers

Counters

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

Audio-Visual support

Grant Gilliland, Frank Duren

Greeter Coordination

Patrick Wilmot

**St. Paul's–Eastern United Church (SPEUC)
Annual General Meeting (AGM) of March 4, 2018
Minutes**

Date and Time	March 4, 2018 following Sunday worship	
Location	SPEUC Hall	
Attendees		
Aye, Bernice Bennett, Marg Bergeron, Wendy Blais, Kay Gilliland, Grant MacKenzie, Betty Manders, Brenna McGuire, Geoff McKnight, the Rev. Laurie Mowers, Susan Oudit, Heather Potts-Halpin, William	Potvin, Jackie Reid, Louise Renaud, Jacques Rowlee, Karl Saumur, Patrick (Church Administrator) (Guest) Smith, Helen Stockemer, Cécile Thornton, Nancy York, Nancy (Church Bookkeeper) (Guest)	
Regrets		
Duern, Frank Milne, Martha Robichaud, Michelle		
Quorum	A quorum was attained with at least 10 full members present.	
Opening Prayer/ Reflection	The Rev. Laurie McKnight led the members in an opening prayer.	
Voting Privileges for Adherents	Motion: Be it resolved that adherents be allowed to vote at this meeting Heather Oudit / Louise Reid CARRIED	
Chair of Annual Meeting	Motion: Be it resolved that Grant Gilliland be confirmed as Chair of this meeting. Wendy Bergeron / Cécile Stockemer CARRIED	

Recording Secretary	<p>Motion: Be it resolved that Geoff McGuire be confirmed as recording secretary for this meeting.</p> <p>Kay Blais / Helen Smith CARRIED</p>	
Time of Remembrance	<p>The Rev. L. McKnight lit candles in memory of members and family of members who had passed away and led the assembly in a prayer.</p>	
Approval of Minutes	2017 AGM (March 5, 2017)	<p>Motion: Be it resolved that the minutes of the 2017 AGM be approved with amendments.</p> <p>Geoff McGuire / Heather Oudit CARRIED</p>
	Special Congregational Meeting of January 22, 2017	<p>Motion: Be it resolved that the minutes of the Special Congregational Meeting of January 22, 2017 be approved.</p> <p>Susan Mowers / Bernice Aye CARRIED</p>
	Special Congregational Meeting of October 29, 2017	<p>The Rev. L. McKnight noted that no minutes had been taken at this October 29 meeting to discuss the Odawa Early Years Centre proposal. As this meeting was only for information and no decisions were made, the congregation agreed that it would be sufficient to make mention of that meeting here.</p>
	Special Congregational Meeting of December 17, 2017	<p>Motion: Be it resolved that the minutes of the Special Congregational Meeting of December 17, 2017 be approved.</p> <p>Betty McKenzie / Susan Mowers CARRIED</p>
Appointment/Removal of Officers		
Trustees	<p>Motion: Be it resolved that Eugene Lang be removed from office along with any unknown Trustees as may be in office, thanking them for their service and indemnifying any who may retain any personal liability.</p> <p>Geoff McGuire / Helen Smith</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <p>The Rev. L. McKnight asked why it was necessary to mention “unknown Trustees” in the motion, given that we know who our Trustees are.</p>	

	<p>Geoff explained that this wording came from the Trustees Handbook and that it was a good practice to pass such a motion periodically to ensure that no former Trustees remained in office because of failure to properly remove them at some point in the past.</p> <p>CARRIED</p> <p>Motion: That Susan Mowers be appointed to the Board of Trustees of SPEUC Nancy Thornton / Wendy Bergeron CARRIED</p>
Presbytery Representative	<p>Motion: That Nancy Thornton be appointed alternate Presbytery representative Louise Reid / Heather Oudit CARRIED</p>
Council	<p>There were no nominations for Council.</p>
Ministry and Personnel Committee and Property Committee	<p>Motion: That Daniel Stockemer be appointed to the Ministry and Personnel Committee and Karl Rowlee to the Property Committee Cécile Stockemer / Louise Reid CARRIED</p>
Reports	
General	<p>The Rev. Laurie McKnight asked that her family name be corrected as necessary from “McKnight-Walker” to “McKnight” throughout the Annual Report.</p>
Outreach	<p>On page 22, Cécile Stockemer’s name should appear after Doors Open Ottawa.</p> <p>There should be a reference to our agreement to be a Sponsorship Agreement Holder for Habte’s nephew. The Rev. Laurie McKnight will provide more details.</p> <p>For Odawa Angel Tree (p. 22), we need to add Morgan Hare’s full name and position.</p>
Mission and Service	<p>No questions</p>
Open Table	<p>The Chair drew attention to Brenna Manders’ tireless efforts.</p> <p>Brenna gave a quick update on Open Table.</p> <p>Bernice Aye pointed out that the report was signed simply “Jon” and asked that his full name and title appear in the report. We will list him as Student Coordinator for Open Table. Brenna will get back to us on his full name.</p>
Church Council	<p>No questions</p> <p>Council Chair Michelle Robichaud was not present to speak to the report.</p>

Ministry and Personnel (M&P)	<p>Chair Patrick Wilmot was not present to speak to the report. Committee member Louise Reid spoke on behalf of the committee.</p> <p>She thanked bookkeeper Nancy York for her assistance and mentioned Helen Sedgwick's imminent arrival.</p> <p>She thanked Tracey Wilmot for her past service as office administrator and Patrick Saumur for coming aboard.</p> <p>She thanked custodian William Potts-Halpin for his work keeping the place tidy.</p> <p>She thanked music director Paul Grose and Christian Ministry Coordinator Elaine Grose for their work.</p> <p>Lastly, she also thanked the Rev. Laurie McKnight for her guidance over the year.</p> <p>She welcomed Daniel Stockemer as a member of M&P.</p>
Property	Property Chair Grant Gilliland added to his report that he would be investigating the possibility of ice damming.
Odawa Working Group	<p>Bernice Aye asked about the likelihood of the lease arrangement working out. This will be discussed under New Business.</p> <p>Laurie thanked all the people involved in the working group for their hard work and patience and for new people coming on board.</p>
Worship	No questions
Choir	Helen Smith asked that Paul Grose's full name appear at the end of the report.
Christian Development	No questions
Evergreens	No questions
Presbytery	Derek Carlisle was no present to speak to the report.
Trustees	<p>Bernice Aye asked why there was a zero balance in the Canadian Dollar A+ Account (p. 41).</p> <p>Chair of Trustees, Geoff McGuire, indicated that the account in question had been emptied out to pay for part of the roof expenses but had never been closed. There is no fee associated with keeping the account open.</p>
Receiving of Non-Financial Reports	<p>Motion: That all reports except for the financial reports be received as amended.</p> <p>Susan Mowers / Bernice Aye CARRIED</p>
Receiving of Non-Financial Reports	<p>Motion: That all reports except for the financial reports be received as amended.</p> <p>Susan Mowers / Bernice Aye CARRIED</p> <p>The Chair thanked Patrick Saumur for putting the Report together and Michelle Robichaud for editing it.</p>

Financial Reports	<p>No questions</p> <p>Grant Gilliland asked that the remaining \$100 in the Refucare account be paid out to the Syrian family. Wendy Bergeron supported this.</p> <p>The congregation discussed who would be independently reviewing the books and how, given that all the information is in the SAGE account system. To be discussed further.</p> <p>Motion: That the financial statements be accepted subject to review.</p> <p>Betty MacKenzie / Jacques Renaud CARRIED</p>
Mission and Service Target	<p>Motion: That we set goal at \$7,500</p> <p>Bernice Aye / Helen Smith</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <p>Wendy Bergeron stressed that the congregation is more generous in outreach than is reflected in how we perform relative to our Mission and Service goal.</p> <p>CARRIED</p>
Information report and 2018 Budget	<p>An Information Sheet and Budget 2018 sheet had been distributed separate from the Annual Report. The Information Sheet is not the official financial statements but presents revenues and expenditures in a manner that is more meaningful for the congregation.</p> <p>Bookkeeper Nancy York reviewed the Information Sheet and suggested developing a strategy for how we can cover our deficit. This might include going to Ottawa Presbytery for retroactive release of more than the \$60,000 Presbytery had already released for the roof project.</p> <p>Treasurer Geoff McGuire explained that Council had agreed on a figure of \$20,000 as a conservative estimate for rental income, given that we had no way of knowing at this point when or even if the lease with Odawa would be realized. This contributed to the significant deficit shown in the budget. Wendy Bergeron expressed discomfort at approving a budget with a deficit of this magnitude.</p> <p>The Rev. Laurie McKnight mentioned that she might, if things are not too busy, be willing to reduce her tenure to part-time.</p> <p>Motion: That the 2018 Budget be approved as written, noting that there will be updated information further to the Odawa lease negotiations.</p> <p>Brenna Manders / Heather Oudit CARRIED</p> <p>Susan Mowers thanked the Rev. Laurie McKnight and Grant Gilliland for their efforts in the Odawa process.</p>
New Business	

Odawa Lease	<p>Grant Gilliland explained that Odawa had been offered Rideau High School as a possible location for its Early Years Centre. St. Paul’s–Eastern might still become a satellite for the Centre.</p> <p>We have hired Cynthia Westaway, a lawyer with experience in Indigenous matters.</p> <p>The Rev. Laurie McKnight said a small group had met to discuss our renovation needs for the sanctuary. Architect Barry Padolsky wants to wait until the lease is signed before moving forward. We will be applying for money from the Trillium Foundation (due date in August 2018). We are also waiting to hear from Mission and Strategy to see if they will pay for our project planning consultant, Joe Ramsay.</p>
Closing Prayer	The Rev. Laurie McKnight led the assembly in a closing prayer.
Adjournment	Jackie Potvin

**St. Paul's–Eastern United Church
Extraordinary Congregational Meeting**

Date and Time	April 8, 2018, following the service	
Location	St. Paul's–Eastern United Church (SPEUC) sanctuary	
Attendance	Bearne, Katherine Bennett, Cameron Bennett, Marg Bergeron, Wendy Blais, Kay Boissoneau, Denise Anne Clement, Brett ??? Cody, Katelyn Craig, Robert Duern, Frank Gilliland, Grant (Chair) Grose, Paul Kuntz, Zoé Lavoie, H��l��ne Link, Helen MacKenzie, Betty	MacWhirter, Wayne Manders, Brenna L. McGuire, Geoff (Secretary) McKnight, The Rev. Laurie Moore, Gail Oudit, Heather Paul, Linda Potvin, Jackie Smith, Helen Stockemer, C��cile Stockemer, Daniel Stow, Thomas Thornton, Nancy Wilmot, Tracey L. Wilson, Wil
Quorum	Quorum attained with at least 10 full members present	
Appointment of Recording Secretary	Motion: That Geoff be confirmed as recording secretary for this meeting. Wayne MacWhirter / Robert Craig CARRIED	
Appointment of Katelyn Cody as Co-Chair of Council	Motion: That Katelyn Cody be appointed Co-Chair of SPEUC Council. Linda Paul / Thomas Stow CARRIED	
Appointment of Signing Authorities for Cheques	Motion: That henceforth the following people be the exclusive signing authorities for SPEUC's operating bank account: Geoff McGuire Wayne MacWhirter Helen Smith	

	<p>Cécile Stockemer Grant Gilliland The Rev. Laurie McKnight Jacques Renaud</p> <p>Discussion: Tracey Wilmot pointed out that our practice is that signers do not sign cheques for which they are the beneficiary.</p> <p>CARRIED</p>
<p>Update on Odawa</p>	<p>The Rev. Laurie McKnight gave an update on the relationship with the Odawa Native Friendship Centre</p> <p>There has been no concrete progress yet.</p> <p>The timing is getting critical, as Odawa needs to vacate its current premises at City Centre.</p> <p>To facilitate things, a small group from SPEUC will be meeting with our lawyer with a view to giving Odawa until mid-May to give us a clear indication of its intentions.</p> <p>Linda Paul asked if we had a fund for our own renovations.</p> <p>Laurie replied that we would be applying to the Trillium Foundation first.</p>

**St. Paul's–Eastern United Church
Extraordinary Congregational Meeting**

Date and Time	May 27, 2018, following the service	
Location	St. Paul's–Eastern United Church (SPEUC) sanctuary	
Attendance	<p>Aye, Bernice Bennett, Marg Bergeron, Wendy Blais, Kay Duern, Frank Gemmill, Alan Gilliland, Grant (Chair) Grose, Elaine Grose, Paul Lavoie, Hélène Link, Helen Macaluso, Sylvia MacKenzie, Betty MacWhirter, Wayne Manders, Brenna L. McGuire, Geoff (Secretary) McKnight, the Rev. Laurie Milne, Martha</p>	<p>Moore, Gail Mowers, Susan Oudit, Heather Paul, Linda Potts-Halpin, William Reid, Louise Rowlee, Karl Smith, Helen Stockemer, Cécile Stockemer, Daniel Stow, Thomas Thornton, Nancy Wilmot, Patrick Wilson, Will</p>
Quorum	<p>Requirement: 10 full members for a congregation of between 30 and 99 full members. A quorum was reached with 29 full members present.</p>	
Welcome	<p>The Rev. Laurie McKnight welcomed those assembled and led the assembly in an opening prayer. Grant Gilliland thanks everyone for their support to Rose and Tracey's craft sale</p>	
Ability to vote	<p>Motion: Be it resolved that adherents be allowed to vote at this meeting A.Gemmill / L.Reid</p>	
Election of Chair	<p>Motion: Be it resolved that Grant Gilliland be confirmed as Chair of this meeting W. MacWhirter / P. Wilmot</p>	

Election of Secretary	Motion: Be it resolved that Cécile Stockemer be appointed as recording Secretary for this meeting T. Stow / F. Duern
BUSINESS ARISING	
Letter of intent from Odawa	<p>Grant Gilliland welcomes David Sherwin and introduces him as the moderator for this meeting.</p> <p>Opening remarks by David Sherwin</p> <p>D. Sherwin explains that SPEUC has received a letter of intent from Odawa about negotiating a lease agreement with SPEUC</p> <p>He presents the terms of the lease proposal and introduces a new piece of information: Odawa is interested in ownership of part of or the whole building at some point down the road.</p> <p>He adds that they are proposing to invest a very significant amount of money and wish to secure their presence in the building to justify these investments</p> <p>He explains that it will require the approval of Presbytery before any sale can go through</p> <p>He announces that there are 2 motions to decide on today:</p> <p>Give authority to Trustees to negotiate the terms of the lease (accommodation, distribution of space...)</p> <p>Approach the Trillium Foundation to get funding to repurpose the Sanctuary</p> <p>Grant Gilliland reminds everyone about the confidentiality of this meeting and of all the discussions pertaining to this lease with Odawa</p> <p>Viability Report presentation by Wendy Bergeron:</p> <p>Explains that she participated in a viability analysis for the congregation in 2016</p> <p>Collected data from a 5 year period</p> <p>Very sharp decline in both offerings and attendance</p> <p>Between 30-40 attendees per Sunday</p> <p>29% over 60 years of age</p> <p>More than 60% of givings are from attendees over 60, General revenue through donations don't cover expenditures</p> <p>Fewer hands to participate in outreach or internal governance of the church</p> <p>Increased reliance on the Minister (Laurie) to handle most of the load</p> <p>Difficult reality of owning a historical building</p> <p>Excess space for our congregation needs</p> <p>Building age requires a lot of overhaul</p>

The Rev. Laurie McKnight acknowledges all the people involved in outreach, says she is not the only one taking care of that aspect.

Treasurer's Report by Geoff McGuire

Revenues vs expenditures

Projected deficit of over \$110,000 for 2018

Investments (totalling \$276,967) have been severely depleted to cover necessary repairs

Approval a further drawdown of up to \$85,000 to cover operation expenses during the transition efforts to set up a lease with Odawa

Lease with Odawa detail:

5 years

\$80,000 per year

Additional rent for utilities: \$36,000

Adjusted deficit with lease starting Aug 1st: \$66,322

Ongoing annual deficit: \$4,413 (probably higher with increased insurance and other costs with lease)

BOTTOM LINE: we need to increase our offerings

W. MacWhirter asks if the 2018 budget has included higher cost of utilities for the upstairs after a lease with Odawa since the Sanctuary will be used on a daily basis compared to only on Sundays

G. McGuire answers that the budget was built on 2017 data not on projections.

P. Grose asks what the real estate value of the building is.

G. Gilliland answers that Odawa has agreed to pay half of appraisal (\$4500) for both real estate value and insurance value and explains that this appraisal will come in the form of a 30-page document.

A. Gemmill asks if the costs will get much higher than budgeted because of intensified presence in the building.

G. Gilliland answers that this has been addressed and that Odawa and SPEUC will pay 50/50 of actual expenditures for utilities.

The Rev. Laurie McKnight adds that thanks to our relationship with Odawa, we will still have use of the downstairs whenever we need it.

David Sherwin insists on the fact that a letter of intent is not legally binding. It simply exposes each part's intention to enter into an agreement.

This specific lease terms are as follow:

5 years + 5-year renewal every 5 years = 20 years

purpose: Aboriginal early year center + Odawa friendship center offices

D. Sherwin goes over everything included under the term ‘utilities’ and explains that Odawa may arrange for some of these utilities to be separately metered (water for example)

Lease will include improvements to the building

Negotiation of a lease to own arrangement with Odawa whose terms will be negotiated.

60 days priority purchase to Odawa if SPEUC decides to sell

D. Sherwin reminds everyone that the Ottawa Presbytery will have to be consulted as it will have to give its consent for any sale

Proposed starting lease date: October 1st 2018

Negotiations in good faith: no side consultation with other parties on both parts

Odawa specifies that they are negotiating with other parties for ADDITIONAL space and programs that will not be at SPEUC

Odawa asks for confidentiality to ensure good negotiations

Any publicity will be coordinated by the 2 parties

Both parties will be responsible for their own expenses other than any previously decided agreement.

Trustees are the signing authority for SPEUC

B. Aye asks if the mentioned date of the lease marks the beginning of renovations to start. She also asks if there is a significance for that October 1st date.

L. Paul asks if we are committed to selling to Odawa.

D. Sherwin explains that we are committed to negotiating the terms and that if they meet our conditions, we will have to sell.

The Rev. Laurie McKnight understands the concerns about this October 1st date but says that Odawa is willing to negotiate on this starting date and are willing to push that back, to July or August 1st.

H. Smith expresses concerns about the Early Years Centre wording because Odawa only has funding for 18 months for this specific program... What happens next if the funding is not renewed?

The Rev. Laurie McKnight: it will read EYC/office space.

D. Sherwin explains that a discussion will need to be had with Odawa about the ‘after-funding’ period

G. Gilliland states that the addition of ‘office space’ excludes them from bringing activities that do not conform to the appellation of office space.

W. MacWhirter states that we need to entrust our trustees to take care of these things.

B. Aye asks if everything we are talking about today has to do with the lease to own option. She wants to know if there is another option to full ownership.

D.Sherwin explains that he doesn't have the answer but that there are 2 options:

Option 1: they purchase the whole building and we become tenants

Option 2: there is a horizontal split, and it might be possible for Odawa to own the downstairs and SPEUC would own the upstairs.

The Rev. Laurie McKnight adds that it could be like a condominium agreement.

W. MacWhirter declares that we have to decide first if we are in agreement with this motion BEFORE discussing all the details.

D.Sherwin calls for a 5-minute discussion between SPEUC members.

P. Grose asks whether the lease and the MOU should be separated. He suggests reworking the wording of the motion. He adds that SPEUC gave permission to negotiate a lease and he does not think it is fair business practice from Odawa's part to counter back with a lease to own.

L. Reid states that either we say empower our Trustees to negotiate the best for us or we find a way to find the extra \$81,000.... She finishes by adding that we cannot afford to say no.

The Rev. Laurie McKnight explains that the government has released money quickly, and approved the lease to own proposal from Odawa. She adds that it has taken this amount of time to the Odawa board to decide but that it is a need for them and taking out the lease to own option is a deal breaker. They have to be out of City Center by October 2018 and have been burnt before. It is an important issue for them.

W. Bergeron worries that all the discussions were mainly focused around financial issues while we originally entered this relationship under reconciliation ideals with the purpose of building a relationship with Odawa.

H. Smith adds that when we think of reconciliation with Indigenous people, we have to remember that they carry a load of anger and resentment. It means that when we negotiate, we have to be more open and understanding.

D.Sherwin requests a change of wording in the motion to make it acceptable for Presbytery. He asks for the addition of 'to negotiate' after "Ottawa Presbytery". He points out that their next meeting is on June 5th and explains that if we get everything approved today, we could get a very quick answer from Presbytery. He explains that there are 4 decisions to make: 2 by the congregation and 2 by Presbytery

W. Bergeron mentions that she assumes there will be harmonisation between the current Presbytery and the new version coming soon.

D.Sherwin confirms that there will be all sorts of motions to guarantee continuity in the fall.

L. Paul asks if the money would go to the congregation or to United Church if we did sell the church.

D.Sherwin explains that 15% is retained by UCC Presbytery + up to \$5 000 to support archives.

G. McGuire asks if there will be any restriction on those funds.

D.S mentions that Centretown has an agreement with Presbytery according to which they cannot touch the capital of the sale of their building but can use the income of the investments. He adds that it is very common and will probably be the case for this church. He explains that it is to ensure that future generations can keep inheriting the building just like we've had from the founders.

Motion 1: That we give approval to the Trustees of SPEUC to negotiate the details of the Lease with the Odawa Native Friendship Centre for an Early Years Centre/office space, and a MOU to establish the terms for Lease to Own options or other purchase options of the church in the future, and to seek approval from the Ottawa Presbytery to negotiate. Such a MOU will guarantee space for the ongoing ministry of St Paul's Eastern congregation.

T. Stow / A. Gemmill

Grant adds a point of clarification on the vote: it will be held by secret ballot vote by full members only!

D.Sherwin adds that it will be a YES or NO vote to the motion

Louise and Nancy Thornton take care of the ballot count

CARRIED unanimously by a vote of full members only

Motion 2: That we empower the Trustees to seek funding from the Ontario Trillium foundation and other funding sources for capital grants and/or loans to repurpose the sanctuary to become a multi-purpose facility.

B. MacKenzie asks if it is a good idea to entertain the idea of loans considering our financial situation.

	<p>The Rev. Laurie McKnight explains that if the sanctuary was to be repurposed, we could rent it to organisations from the broader community, which would then bring money back.</p> <p>P. Wilmot asks if there is not something called forgivable loans.</p> <p>G. Gilliland / T. Stow</p> <p>The Rev. Laurie McKnight points out that everyone is allowed to vote.</p> <p>D.Sherwin asks if everyone agrees with a show of and vote. The answer is positive.</p> <p>CARRIED unanimously</p> <p>Motion 3: That the trustees be empowered to request for funding from the Ottawa Presbytery Church Extension Fund for money to assist in the changes we require to our sanctuary to accommodate the space needs for the staff and for the congregation.</p> <p>P. Wilmot / A. Gemmill</p> <p>CARRIED unanimously</p> <p>Motion 4: That we send a letter to Ottawa Presbytery inviting them to initiate a conversation between the 4 downtown congregations to discuss our shared concerns and staffing needs (Dominion Chambers, Centretown, MacKay and SPEUC).</p> <p>D.Sherwin specifies that it does not need to come to the floor as it is a Church Council matter but still thinks it is useful information for the congregation.</p> <p>Motion 5: That the ballots be destroyed.</p> <p>T. Stow / A. Gemmill</p>
Adjournment	P. Wilmot / G. Gilliland

**St. Paul's–Eastern United Church
Extraordinary Congregational Meeting**

Date and Time	November 11, 2018, following the service	
Location	St. Paul's–Eastern United Church (SPEUC) sanctuary	
Attendance	<p>Anderson, John Aye, Bernice Bennett, Cameron Bennett, Marg Bergeron, Wendy</p> <p>Blais, Kay Blanco, José Rafael Morillo Bray, Jack Craig, Robert Duern, Frank Gemmill, Alan Gilliland, Grant (Chair) Grose, Paul Link, Helen MacKenzie, Betty</p>	<p>McGuire, Geoff (Secretary) McKnight, The Rev. Laurie The Rev. M. John Moor Moore, Gail Oudit, Heather Paul, Linda Potvin, Jackie Reid, Louise Rowlee, Karl Stockemer, Cécile Stockemer, Daniel Thornton, Nancy Wilmot, Patrick Wilson, Wil</p>
Quorum	Quorum attained with at least 10 full members present	
Appointment of Gail Moore to Council	<p>Motion: That Gail Moore be appointed to SPEUC Council.</p> <p>Linda Paul / The Rev. M. John Moor CARRIED</p>	
Proposal from EDGE	<p>Grant explained that Council had received a Letter of Intent from the EDGE Network of the United Church of Canada and proceeded to read it aloud. In summary, the proposal would involve:</p> <p>The transfer of ownership of the church building to the national office of the United Church of Canada, which would assume liability for the building and responsibility for paying building costs, finding tenants and renovating. This would allow the congregation to focus on mission work instead of devoting significant time and money to maintaining an aging building.</p> <p>Right of SPEUC to continue using the space.</p> <p>Payment by the United Church to SPEUC of a stipend for a minimum of five years to offset shortfalls in operations.</p>	

	<p>Grant stressed that signing the Letter of Intent would not have any effect other than to start a conversation between our Trustees/Council and the EDGE Network about the proposal.</p> <p>Motion: To give the Trustees of SPEUC permission to sign the Letter of Intent from EDGE.</p> <p>Wil Wilson / Heather Oudit</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <p>Wil Wilson asked how we could transfer ownership of the building given that we do not own it.</p> <p>Geoff McGuire explained that the Trustees of SPEUC do in fact hold legal title to the property, in trust for the use of the SPEUC congregation as part of the United Church of Canada. The proposal would involve transferring the real property from the Trustees of SPEUC to the United Church of Canada head office, which is a corporation. Geoff expressed his support for the proposal, as it would lift a significant management burden and liability from the Trustees of SPEUC.</p> <p>The Rev. M. John Moor asked how this proposal had come about after the failure of the lease negotiations with the Odawa Native Friendship Centre. The Rev. Laurie McKnight gave some background on the negotiations with Odawa.</p> <p>Wendy Bergeron asked about the Parish Collective mentioned in the Letter of Intent. Laurie said she was not familiar with it and that it is probably a new body that is being created.</p> <p>Helen Link asked if we would have to pay rent to the national office. It appears that we will not, as we are essentially giving away the building in exchange for a stipend and a right to continue using the space.</p> <p>Bernice Aye asked if we would continue to have some control over the use of the space. This will have to be raised in the discussions with EDGE.</p> <p>Bernice also stressed the importance of spelling our congregational name correctly in any formal documents that we sign (“St. Paul’s–Eastern United Church”, not just “St. Paul’s”).</p> <p>CARRIED</p>
Adjournment	Gail Moore

Pastoral Care Report 2018

Members of the congregation continue to provide pastoral care to each other.

Rev. Laurie McKnight continued to lead worship monthly at the Edinburgh Retirement Home with the assistance of Margaret Bennett and Linda Paul and Jacques Renaud in the winter months. In the fall they formally added the addition of “Conversation with Rev. Laurie” after the worship service which is well attended and enjoyed by all.

She also began offering monthly worship in August at the Governors Walk in New Edinburgh. Heather Oudit continues to send birthday greetings to older members and to children and youth, especially those away from home at college and universities.

Betty Mackenzie has replaced Derek Carlisle in sending Christmas cards to past members and friends featuring photos taken by members of the congregation.

Helen Smith has been unable to contribute to pastoral care this year so Betty Mackenzie will continue to keep in touch with our seniors.

Submitted by Betty MacKenzie

2018 Outreach Report

Student volunteering

2018 was the third straight year SPEUC was an official community partner to The Michaëlle Jean Centre for Global and Community Engagement program. We decided to target more students enrolled in the Community Service Learning option in order to ensure a better stability and regular presence in our different programs. CSL is an academic program offered by OttawaU where students contribute to their community by participating in service placements related to course learning objectives. Students have to complete at least 30 hours of service learning for both fall and winter courses.

We had three CSL volunteers for the Sandy Hill Senior Network in the winter, two in Gerontology who were greatly appreciated by our seniors and one in Communication who took care of the advertising side. In the fall, we had three new CSL volunteers who, despite their very varied background (Nutrition, Spanish and Finance) and several schedule conflicts, managed to get together and bring their refreshing input on different topics every month.

Our partnership with the Odawa Food Bank led to the creation of 3 different placements which brought us about twenty students in the winter. One group of 10 worked on a Food Drive Project, which was dedicated to ‘luxury’ products’, i.e products we don’t typically offer at the Food Bank (jam, peanut butter, chocolate, canned fruit...) and took place, all day at the OttawaU Student Center, on March 20th and 21st. The outcome of this event was a real success as they managed to collect about 15 big boxes of food, which was distributed within the next week, to the greatest pleasure of our regular clients. The other group took care of food reception and storage as well as distribution. We had 4 CSL students (Canadian and Indigenous Studies, International Development and Globalization, Anthropology, Social Science) and 5 EV (extracurricular

volunteering) students working in shifts to cover both, distribution days (Tuesdays and Fridays) and reception day (Mondays). The feedback we got from the students and the Food Bank users was overwhelmingly positive and encouraged us to strengthen this partnership.

In the fall, the Food Drive project was replaced with a Food Dropbox Project, which involved the participation of 8 CSL students. The idea was to work on the creation of a box in which people (students and Sandy Hill residents) could drop off or pick up canned food when needed. They had to take care of the whole project from A to Z, from feasibility, shape, material to choose, etc. to getting administrative authorization, research of strategic locations, etc. They ended the session by delivering a prototype that should become a real product for our neighbourhood soon, depending on the viability of the Food Bank at our church. The food reception/distribution was handled by 6 students (4 CSL and 2 EV), who did a wonderful job despite having to deal with numerous schedule problems and extra work to complete their necessary 30 hours. They were real troopers and made food distribution during these months much more enjoyable for our clients.

Everyone's Sister Refugee Sponsorship Group

As reported in the 2017 Annual Report, it was the Everyone's Sister Refugee Sponsorship (ES) Group's intention to bring in a young single Syrian Woman to join her brother who had arrived in Canada a year earlier as a Syrian refugee. In early 2018, the young woman's situation changed, resulting in her decision to remain in the Middle East.

The ES Group remained committed to helping to settle a woman refugee fleeing war, exploitation and/or violence and with the continued partnership of SPEUC, was thrilled to welcome, in November, a young refugee woman and her 9-year old son from Liberia. The family had been living in a refugee camp in Ghana for many years.

The Group's focus over the coming year is to help our newcomers settle into their life in Canada, attending school and making new friends as they grow in their independence.

Everyone's Sister is very grateful for the assistance and support provided by SPEUC.

(Submitted by Wendy Bergeron, SPEUC representative on ES Group)

Refugee Sponsorship

We continued to hold \$500 in our Refugee Trust Account to sponsor Kokob Tesfamihat, who was coming from Eritrea.

Garage sale

Our annual garage sale took place on September 29th. It was a success and we managed to raise about \$ 1500. 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.

Wabano Gift giving

Thanks to Patrick Wilmot, we had the opportunity, this year, to give Christmas gifts to the students of one of his afterschool programs. They recorded a very sweet thank you video for us in return, which was much appreciated. A huge thank you to everyone who chose to participate in giving a beautiful Christmas to First Nation children, and to Laurie, Grant and Patrick for handling the very tedious task of picking-up and delivering all the gifts. We are so very grateful.

Open Doors

This year again, we participated to the Door Open event organized by the city of Ottawa. It took place on June 2nd and 3rd and aimed at “unlocking doors and welcoming the public in to share the secrets of architecturally and historically significant buildings”. A huge thank you to our volunteers who covered the 2 days by working in shifts and welcomed around 80 visitors, from the mere curious passerby to the most passionate lovers of history and architecture.

The Daly Trust

We were approved by the Church in Society Committee of Ottawa Presbytery to receive a grant to organize a Social Enterprise in 2019 for a window washing/gardening project called The Daly Trust, which was initiated by Michael McNeil. We met with Mike during one of our monthly Council meetings and he exposed his vision and needs to bring this entrepreneurial endeavor to life. Grant Gilliland kindly agreed to head this up with Laurie's support.

Sandy Hill Senior Network

To be submitted by Helen Smith and Gail Moore

The Little Library

Approximately 2 years ago I installed a little library outside the church. It seems that some of the people that use it do not understand that it is a lending library where you take a book and leave a book or bring back the borrowed book. At first this bothered me but after meeting many interesting people and the support it has received from various sources, I have been able to keep it supplied with books.

I appreciate all the support the congregation has given with their surplus books. In addition, one of the largest ongoing suppliers of books is the Friends of the Rockcliffe Library. They donate books that they have too many of for their annual sale. St. Bartholomew Anglican Church in New Edinburgh also donated a carload of books left over from their sale.

The most surprising thing that has grown out of the little library is the children's books. Every month or so the Boomerang store in Barrhaven donates 6 to 10 boxes of quality children's books. I pass them on to Wabano Community Health Centre through Patrick Wilmot, some to St. Mary's Catholic school in Vanier and some have been shipped to Ethiopia via Martha Milne's brother and to Haiti by a woman who lives in our neighbourhood. Image, the Sunday Hill Community Newspaper, also included an article in their paper about our library.

Submitted by Librarian Grant Gilliland

Open Table

Now in its 13th year, the Open Table ministry---a monthly meal and dessert presented to young adults ages 18-30 by a team of inner-city churches---continues its locally-renowned outreach. Each year the participating churches negotiate which churches will contribute the meal and/or dessert each month, and what other activities we can offer to students during the academic year, to forestall social isolation and to make the Christian presence known to them. Currently Open Table is also trying out Pause Tables during the mid-term and final exam periods, when fruit, nutritious snacks and drinks, and low-level counselling are offered to students. This has necessitated a move of the Open Table meals to mid-month, rather than the last Sunday in the month, as formally occurred. So far, this format seems a success, but Open Table renegotiates it every year, to best provide a consistent experience to our target audience. SPEUC provided the September/2018 Open Table meal and will have furnished the February/2019 OT dessert by the time of this annual-report's release. Our church is fortunate indeed to be part of this initiative which yields so much community good!

Submitted by Brenna Manders

Used Stamps and Used Christmas cards:

Thank you to Marg Bennett for collecting, for the last 25 years,

- Used stamps to pass on to the Canadian Bible Society for their Used Stamp Program. Revenue from their sale of the used stamps to collectors and vendors is used to purchase Bibles for distribution as needed. The drop-off location in downtown Ottawa, The Bible House is now closed. We will follow-up with the Bible Society for a new drop-off location.
- Previous year's Christmas cards (with the written message section torn off) to St. Patrick's Home for their arts and craft program. The Home has enough supplies now and is no longer accepting the used Christmas cards. We are encouraged to check with other homes or schools that might be interested in receiving these cards.

Submitted by Bernice Aye

Council Report

2018 was a year of emotional ups and downs, which underscored the meaning of faith for many of us. As ever, the work of St. Paul's-Eastern United Church was achieved through the dedication and creativity of our staff and by volunteers on church committees, council and ad hoc committees. Thanks also to those who came together to accomplish specific tasks such as decorating for the holidays, offering line dancing lessons to the community, contributing to coffee time, and helping to host overnight guests, etc.

As noted in other reports, we experienced strains in our relationship with some of our neighbours. We continue to work collaboratively with the many parties involved, to resolve challenges as they arise and stay informed of local issues. Internally, we addressed the safety and security of our staff through a joint arrangement with St. Joseph's to share the cost of a security guard, during the summer and fall. The presence of a security guard decreased disruptions around the church and as a council we were encouraged by his non-aggressive approach and training in de-escalating volatile situations. Given the improvements noted by staff, this is an expense we are likely to consider in 2019, if warranted.

The decision of the Odawa Native Friendship Centre to locate the Early Years Centre elsewhere was a disappointment and I would like to thank all those who offered their time and energy in developing a relationship with Odawa and in imagining the future of our church. Special thanks to Laurie for her leadership over many years and for her broader work on reconciliation within the presbytery.

In closing, I would like to thank members of council and acknowledge the contributions of former council members. St. Paul's-Eastern lost a valuable friend with the passing of Jacques Renaud. Among the many gifts he shared were his roles as chair of property and later as chair of finance. During our walk in Gatineau Park last fall, we missed Jacques, who was an experienced and enthusiastic hiker. Helen Smith, a long-time member of council in several capacities, withdrew from council in 2018. We miss Helen's corporate memory, commitment to social justice and readiness to help.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Thornton

Ministry and Personnel

The year has been relatively busy for members of the committee, Patrick Wilmot, Louise Reid, and Daniel Stockemer. Unfortunately Patrick Wilmot has announced his intention to stepdown in 2019. We will miss him greatly.

In March, thanks to Laurie's assistance, we added Helen Sedgewick to our church team as bookkeeper. As a minister's wife, Helen is well informed as to the workings of a United Church and, equally well, with the technical support used by many United Churches for keeping the books and administering tax receipts. She is appreciated by those who work with her. We Thank Nancy York for her survive in bookkeeping.

William has been working with Patrick Wilmot in determining how best to service the physical needs of the church. He and Patrick have met upon occasion at Wabano to discuss the most efficient use of William's time. He has been doing a good job both inside the building and out. As it has been a particularly difficult winter, we have been fortunate that the entrance to our church is often the best cleared and maintained section of the street!

Additionally, we have been the recipient of William's devotion and ingenuity in maintaining the gardens around our church. Our gardens on Cumberland were particularly lovely this year.

Our committee has also had several discussions with our Office Administrator, Patrick Saumur, with respect to the most efficient ways of using his time to the church's benefit. Patrick was new to the job this year and has been doing an excellent job of our church bulletins and service programs on Sunday of each week. After some discussion, a schedule has been set up and the hours during the week when he can be expected to be in the office have become increasingly consistent. They are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, from 10:00 to 2:00.

The only remaining matter to be sorted out is the establishment of a website for St. Paul's-Eastern. It is nearing completion and the committee has been assured that it will be fully operational by the end of March 2019. The initial deadline was to have been the end of December, but Patrick has been experiencing some technical difficulties. Between those and the increased workload due to yearend tasks, the deadline had to be moved back three months. Patrick does assure us, however, that the final product will be up and running by March 31.

As always, Paul Grose, our choir director and organist, has been doing a superb job. This year, he and Patrick Wilmot have tried out a new initiative that seems to be working well. After Paul selects his Sunday Postlude, he has been giving the information to Patrick Wilmot who has been preparing a visual presentation containing information about the composer and, when possible, the theme of the postlude being played by Paul. If people enjoy this new addition to the

program, comments would be appreciated. We are fortunate to have the quality of music that we do at our church. In addition to constantly practicing alone and with the choir, Paul also spends considerable time to find, select and purchase new music for the enjoyment of the congregation. It is a time-consuming process that is appreciated by us all.

I will conclude this report with a sincere thank you to all and particularly to Laurie, our minister. Not only does she spend hours preparing the weekly sermon, complete with a power-point presentation, but she continues to represent our church in the community in a way that we should all be proud. This year she and the church committee who worked with Odawa put countless hours into trying to reach an agreement that would have been of benefit to all. However, at the last minute, regardless of their efforts, the deal fell through. Since then, she and others have started on a new journey in an effort to keep St. Paul's-Eastern a viable presence in Ottawa. We wish them well. In 2019 we will begin a new relationship with Laurie who has accepted to have her position reduced to 75% time, starting in January of 2019. As a result, we will have visiting ministers once a month in order for Laurie to have a week off each month when she will be available only in case of emergencies. We are fortunate to have her.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Reid

Property Report 2018

This was a year of anticipation that Odawa Native Friendship Centre would be taking over the lower level for an Early Years Center. Waiting for this to happen affected our rental income due to the lack of ability to commit to organizations inquiring about space rental.

An appraisal of the property was done by Cushman Wakefield in July at a cost of \$5,000 with Odawa picking up half the cost. This was required for the lease negotiations with Odawa.

Odawa continues to run a food bank 4 times a month out of the office near the elevator. Loretta Young is their co-ordinator. Odawa continued to use the old nursery for their Sweetgrass program until the middle of September. The room is presently used for storage and upon getting a request for rental it will have to be repaired and painted.

The building was used by the following rental groups this year:

- a small group of sword fighters on Tuesday evenings
- the River of Life, an outreach ministry of the Chinese Alliance Church for university students
- AA group who continue to use the hall on Sunday evenings
- occasional weddings and family gatherings

In the spirit of reconciliation, we also hosted a group from Grassy Narrows for 4 days while they attended workshops and a rally on Parliament Hill to protest about the long-term effects

from the mercury poisoning of their waters. They were invited by Amnesty International. People from other churches and the community also generously provided sleeping bags and mattresses and some food and moral support.

Due to all the construction for the LRT we had to bring in a pest control company to deal with some unwanted vermin. There is a tunnel being bored under Cumberland Street in 2019 for storm drainage and the contractor was in and took a video of all the interior and exterior along with small monitors on the outside of the building to ensure they are not doing any structural damage to the church when they bore 10 meters underground. Cumberland St. will be closed between Wilbrod St. and Stewart St. for about a six-month period as they bore the tunnel.

Security became an issue this year as the number of people hanging around outside the church and on Daly St drastically increased. As the Mission attempted to keep the residents on Daly Street between Waller and Cumberland free of their clients, they pushed them across the street to our corner. We hosted a meeting at the church with representatives from our congregation, the neighbourhood business people, condo residents, our local City Councillor Mathieu Fleury, the Ex Director of the Mission, City Officials dealing with homelessness, Mona Fortier's (Federal MP) Outreach Officer, and other concerned individuals.

A group of concerned neighbours organized by Keith Nuttal, sent us a proposal to hire a security firm at a cost of about \$3000 per month. We opted instead to cooperate with St. Joseph's Catholic Church located on Laurier Ave East to share in the expenses of a security guard for one hour per day. David MacKay came to our church 3 or 4 times day for a tour and sends all the people just hanging around drinking on their way, sending us daily reports via some technology. He was also available by phone call when any situation arose that could not be handled by our staff. This service costs us \$17 per day, 5 days a week between April and November and was well worth the investment of money and our supervision.

The owners of the old manse proposed putting a gate at the end of the driveway to prevent people from going up the driveway and doing their business. The cost would be \$13,000 and we would cover half of that cost. The new neighbours who rented the manse when the owners departed to Bolivia have installed a very bright spotlight to help cut down on the visitors. We have motion detector lights which cannot be left on due to the light shining towards the neighbour's house.

Submitted by Grant Gilliland

Final Report for the Odawa Working Group 2018

Members of the Odawa Working Group: Wendy Bergeron, Nancy Thornton, Cécile Stockemer, Sue Mowers, Grant Gilliland, Patrick Wilmot, Tracey Wilmot, Helen Smith, Wayne MacWhirter, Hélène LaVoie, Gail Moore, Rev Laurie McKnight, support provided by Patrick Saumur

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

I would like to begin this report with a reminder of the motion that was made by the Council in February 2017: 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.

As you know, by the end of 2017 we learned that the Odawa Native Friendship Centre had received \$3 million dollars in funding for an Early Years Centre to be located in the lower level of our church. The purpose of the center would have been to provide learning and healing opportunities for families of the Indigenous community. Some \$1.5 million was designated for the necessary renovations. In early 2018, St Paul's-Eastern United Church received a \$20,000 grant from the Embracing the Spirit Growth Grant program to help facilitate our right relations innovation project.

Our plan was to locate our congregational activities, custodial, administrative and ministerial offices, kitchenette, and washroom facilities in the sanctuary space. The intention was to create the sanctuary into a multi-purpose space. St Paul's-Eastern had affirmed this intention in our September 11, 2017 letter of support in the grant application for the proposed Early Years Centre Journey Together Program.

The Sanctuary Renovation Committee had some very interesting ideas for the new design for the sanctuary including a central area for worship designed to reflect the shape of Turtle Island. To this end, Sue Mowers, one of our Trustees worked diligently to secure funding from the Ontario Trillium Fund to allow us to do this renovation work. This application was to be submitted no later than mid-August and required a costly financial review by Chartered Accountants (this was completed in July). However, we were unable to proceed with the application as plans with Odawa were not progressing.

We understood that \$1.5 million dollars had been designated to renovate the lower level of the church to become an Early Years Centre to provide learning and healing opportunities for the families of the Indigenous community. However, by March there still had been no commitment from the Odawa Board and no efforts on their part to meet with us to discuss the terms of the lease and possible lease to own proposal. We invited their Board to meet with our Council and Working Group mid-March, however only Morgan Hare, the Executive Director and Lesley

Parlane, the President of the Board attended. We did not hear a clear direction on space planning and priorities at this time.

In order to help us facilitate this process we secured the help of Rev Joe Ramsay from Napanee who has established a business that helps with project planning. He met with the Working Group and Council and took us through a process that helped us clarify our tasks and timeline assuming the Early Years Centre was going to move forward. Joe provided ongoing support to me as we tried to understand the dynamic occurring with Odawa's Board. We also had ongoing concern and support from Barry Padolsky, the architect who was going to oversee the renovation work. We also hired a law firm to assist us in developing the lease and to do it in a way that was sensitive to how the Odawa Board members might want to interact with us as a church. After considerable exploration of possible law firms, Sue Mowers found us a law firm which had extensive experience in working with the Indigenous community across Canada and had a previous relationship with Odawa. Cynthia Westaway's Law Firm, located in the Byward Market, was hired and they provided ongoing legal support. We valued their initiatives and insight as we struggled to get Odawa to come to the table to negotiate the terms of the lease. This finally occurred in early May when some of our Trustees were able to meet with members of their Board and staff, attempting to clarify expectations regarding the 20-year lease and lease to own possibilities.

By mid-June we received a formal Letter of Intent from Odawa's Board indicating that they were committed to locating their Early Years Centre (EYC) at the church. However, we still had concerns given that we were aware that Odawa was engaging in the negotiations with the Ministry of Infrastructure of the Ontario Government to locate their programs at Rideau High School by October 1st, 2018 when their lease at City Centre expired. We had learned in March that there was an existing Day Care Centre at the High School which could be a better location for the EYC.

Our concerns about the possibility of locating the EYC at the church continued to deepen, especially when I was informed by Morgan Hare at the end of June that he was no longer allowed to have any communication with me and that all communication should be conducted formally between our respective lawyers. The summer months were incredibly frustrating then as the communication from their lawyer ceased for the entire summer. Cynthia Westaway, our lawyer, was also deeply concerned and did all she could to keep the door open for further negotiations. Our Trustees were frustrated with this breakdown in communication but decided to keep open minds in case Odawa simply needed more time to come to a final decision regarding the best location for the EYC. We respected their discernment.

Acting in good faith, we asked for a meeting with Odawa's Board in early September to discuss their concerns and plans. This meeting did not occur and we finally received a formal letter at the end of September from Odawa's lawyer indicating that they were not planning on locating the Early Years Centre at St Paul's-Eastern United Church.

This allowed us some closure regarding the lease but not without a feeling of great disappointment. Except for a simple text message from Morgan Hare in the fall apologizing for the lack of communication, there has not been any communication from Odawa regarding their relationship with us. They are however willing to house their Food Bank at our church and

welcome the volunteer work provided by UOttawa students that Cecile Stockemer so graciously organizes. Loretta Young runs the Food Bank on behalf of Odawa.

In early October when we were still processing the final decision that had been made by the Odawa Council, we also learned that the President of their Board, Lesley Parlane, was very ill and in a few weeks she passed away quite tragically. I sent condolences to their Board on behalf of the congregation but was unable to attend the Memorial Service to honour her life as a storyteller, activist and a beautiful, committed person.

I would like to honour the people who have served faithfully on the Odawa Working Group, members of our Council, the Trustees and the Sanctuary Renovation Committee for their commitment to this journey of reconciliation, commending them for their courage in exploring this new possibility with Odawa, for their compassion and resilience, in keeping an open heart and mind and especially for the hours of work, meetings, and research that has gone into the lease negotiations. Your leadership, honesty, wisdom, courage, and hopefulness is greatly respected and appreciated not only by me as your minister and friend but also by the Executive of Ottawa Presbytery and the people of Edge at the General Council Office who implement the Embracing the Spirit Fund.

The evaluation of this initiative which was requested by the Embracing the Spirit Fund has been included in this Annual Report. As you read this document you will see how worthwhile this endeavour has been to build our leadership capacity, strengthening the relationships within our church and enabling us to learn how profound and worthwhile this journey of reconciliation truly is.

Submitted with gratitude, respect, and hope,
Rev. Laurie McKnight

Worship Report For 2018

"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

Worship Planning Team: Bernice Aye, Paul Grose, Jacqueline Potvin, Kay Blais Linda Paul and Rev. Laurie McKnight. Meetings held on January 21, May 20 and August 26, 2018.

Worship Space: We had services in the sanctuary and hall, an outdoor service and joint services (one in our church and the other in MacKay United). The hall was used for cafe-style service and also on occasions when there was a problem in the sanctuary e.g. breakdown of heating system. See Property Report. We recognize the work of our custodian William Potts-Halpin, his back-up Shaun Lacelle and all those who helped with reconfiguring and tidying up our worship space. We are also grateful to Louise Reid and Richard Asselin for sharing their home on the bank of the Ottawa River with us for our outdoor service. And to Rev. Peter Woods of MacKay United and Rev Laurie McKnight of St.-Pauls-Eastern United for sharing their sanctuaries in joint services.

Readings: Bible Readings are based on Common Lectionary readings. Lay readers sign up on a sheet in the hall. Rev. Laurie or the preacher of the day read the passages in the absence of lay readers. Reading formats included role playing, storytelling and reading in more than one language (on Pentecost Sunday and World Communion Sunday). More lay readers needed.

Minute for Mission readings are suggested readings and videos from the United Church's Mission & Service booklet and online. The time slot for Minute for Mission is also used to present our local outreach activities. More readers needed. Thank you for contributing to Mission & Service. See Mission & Service Report.

Bibles: Non-English Bibles in many languages are on a shelf at the back of the sanctuary for use during service. More English NRSV Bibles were purchased and placed in the pews with a donation from Wayne MacWhirter.

Worship with Children: The children's table at the back of the sanctuary remains a welcome place for children to sit and be engaged with our Children's Ministry Coordinator during the beginning portion of Sunday church services. We continue to have a dedicated "Time for the Young and Young at Heart" as part of the regular worship service. Presentations during the children's time are given by different members of the congregation including the Minister and visiting preachers. Patrick Wilmot began a teaching session in November 2018 on Indigenous moon teachings. During the rest of the service, the Coordinator leads Sunday School in the Parlour. Thank you to Elaine Grose for her wonderful contribution as our Children's Ministry Coordinator from September 2017 to September 2018. We were pleased to welcome Yujin Oh from September 2018 as our new Coordinator. (See Christian Development Report)

Musical Ministry: Music Director Paul Grose leads the choir and works closely with Rev. Laurie, guest preachers and guest musicians to choose appropriate anthems and bring our hymns to life. See Choir Report.

2018 Special Services & Some Events:

Holy Communion: Seven communion services led by Rev. Laurie McKnight.

First communion of the year served by members of the church council.

Two serving styles: in the pews (twice) and coming forward to two stations.

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 organized participation of lay servers. Thank you all for set-up, take-down and clean-up.

Black History Month February 2018: Related theme music, presentations and Minute for Mission. Guest Speaker on February 11, 2018 was Cyeth Denton-Watts, a member of our congregation.

Worshiplude service with youth from Quebec Presbytery: Sunday February 4 morning.

Count Your Blessings Sunday for Mission & Service: Sunday February 25 led by Michelle Robichaud, candidate for ministry from our congregation.

Aboriginal-themed service: Sunday March 18, 2018 morning

Lent/Easter February 18 - April 1, 2018:

First Sunday in Lent with communion: Sunday February 18 morning

Palm/Passion Sunday with communion: Sunday March 25 morning

Maundy Thursday with communion: Thursday March 29 evening

Good Friday: Friday March 30 morning

Easter Sunday: Sunday April 1 morning

Linda Paul provided a Giving in Lent fundraising calendar.

Asian Heritage Month in May 2018: Hymns written by Asian composers were used as much as possible throughout the month. Related Minute for Mission readings and presentations.

EvenSong Ensemble Musical Concert with JustJamaal The Poet (Jamaal Jackson Rogers, Ottawa's Poet Laureate) on May 12 evening: rhythms of jazz, gospel, folk and spoken word poetry.

Camping Sunday/Earth Sunday: Sunday April 22, 2018 morning.

Pentecost Sunday with communion: Sunday May 20, 2018 morning.

Aboriginal Sunday: Sunday June 17 morning assisted by Patrick Wilmot. Included guest organist Teresa van den Boogaard.

River Service in Chelsea, QC: Sunday June 24 morning followed by picnic and swimming.

Joint Service Sunday July 1 morning: at MacKay United led by Rev. Peter Woods with Paul Grose as musician. No service at St. Paul's-Eastern.

Guest Preacher Sunday July 8 & 15 morning by Paul Whynacht, Candidate for Ordained Ministry

Lay-led worship service: Sunday July 22.

Joint worship service Sunday August 5 morning: at St. Paul's-Eastern United with MacKay United congregation. Led by Rev. Laurie McKnight with Loulia Blinova as musician. No service at MacKay United.

Church crawl on Saturday September 8 afternoon: Did not participate because this was the day of Grant and Laurie's wedding in Norway Bay, Quebec.

Guest Preacher Sunday September 9 morning: Preacher: Patricia Power, Candidate for Ministry from MacKay United.

"Ways of Seeing" Sunday September 16 morning: Reflection within our overall theme of creation on the worldview of Douglas Cardinal, the architect of the Museum of History. The way indigenous and settler communities build.

Welcome Students BBQ: Saturday September 29

World Communion & Thanksgiving Sunday: Sunday October 7, 2018 morning

Guest Preacher October 21 morning: Carol Scott, licensed lay preacher from Emmanuel United.

Café-style service: Sunday October 28 morning.

Anniversary Service: November 4 morning with Rev Joe Ramsay. A progressive United Church Minister shared his faith with a musical presentation and message. His focus is now on music and church renewal conversations. *He also*, assisted us in our project planning *for* EYC.

Remembrance Day: November 11 morning

First Sunday of Advent with communion: Sunday December 2, 2018 morning

Christmas Eve service with communion: Monday December 24, 2018 evening

Fellowship and Hospitality: We continue to hold each other in prayer and help each other in sorrow and in joy.

Coffee time (coffee, tea, juice with delicious, nutritious refreshments) after each service on Sunday mornings remains a vital time to visit with each other and with visitors. Thanks to Heather Oudit, organizer of this ministry with kitchen committee and volunteers and Kay Blais for providing the milk every week.

Greeters: Everyone's participation in welcoming visitors to the worship service and at all our other events is much appreciated. Special thanks to Wil Wilson and Patrick Wilmot, for their faithful ministry in providing a welcoming presence at the doors during worship and distributing of service bulletins, as well as Alan Gemmil and custodians for providing assistance with the elevators.

Offertory: Appreciation to Offertory collection volunteers: Wil Wilson, Kay Blais, Rev. John Moor, Wendy Bergeron and others. Offertory counters: Thomas Stow and team. Thanks to Thomas Stow for organizers this group of volunteers.

Garden: Continues to be a source of delight to us and all who pass by. It also provides fresh vegetables to share. Thank you to all our gardeners including our minister, custodian, church members and "street" friends.

Other fellowship times: Men's Breakfast, hiking, Evergreen's Lunch, potlucks, Anniversary service meals, Grunt's brunch after café church service and Worshiplude Sunday, Christmas dinner cooked by and for our street-involved friends organized by Grant, etc.

Accessibility & Technology Use:

Large print copies of More Voices hymnbooks are at the back of the sanctuary for use during services. Some of our service bulletins are in large print.

Copies of Rev Laurie's sermons available upon request. Also available in file folder on table at back of sanctuary or on our web site.

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.

Congregation is encouraged to sit in middle pews to assist preachers and presenters maintain eye contact.

In addition to printed copies of church service bulletin, we project the order of service and hymn lyrics on Powerpoint slides using visually accessible font colours. Thank you to Grant Gilliland and Rev. Laurie for creating the slides, setting up and using the projector during services. Church

members' contribution of photos for inclusion in presentations are welcome. Thanks to Betty MacKenzie who shared numerous beautiful photos.

Decorations: We are blessed to have and maintain a beautiful place for worship.

Regular floral arrangements in front of sanctuary throughout the year organized by Betty Mackenzie and at times by Wayne MacWhirter. Rev Laurie rearranges the front of the sanctuary, community table, banners and candles corresponding to themes of church seasons. Communion table is decorated with special fabric during Black History Month, Lent, and Aboriginal Sunday. Val Johnson sometimes decorates the hall for coffee time on special occasions e.g. Halloween. Plants at the back of the sanctuary provided by Cécile Stockemer and others. Some plants are moved up to the front on Sundays. Thank you all.

Christmas decorations set up and take down led by Wayne MacWhirter with assistance of our street friends and church members. Large sized nativity figurines are a donation from Wayne MacWhirter in honour of his parents. Crèche and nativity scene made by the late Margaret Bray, wife of Jack Bray. Additional decorations were purchased. We share in a potluck lunch.

Worship in The Community: Rev Laurie leads monthly worship and conversation with residents after worship in two retirement homes. See Pastoral Care Report.

Ecumenical Participation: Some members attended programs including World Day of Prayer, vespers, lent programs, concerts, etc. organized by other United churches and other denominations.

Confirmation: Gail Moore. **Reaffirmation of Faith:** Susan Mowers

Weddings: there were 6 weddings celebrated this year by Rev Laurie 4 in the church and 2 off site. Also, the church was rented by outsiders for their weddings.

Our own Rev Laurie McKnight and Grant Gilliland were joined in holy matrimony on September 8, 2018 at Cushman Memorial Church, Norway Bay, Quebec. A lot of congregation members attended the lovely wedding and reception at their cottage and Coronation Hall in Bristol.

The others that were married this year were Alexander Mario Stevens and Eliane Moser, Willia, Quach and Sarah Lucy McCallum, Ryan Allan Legassil and Jiani Lin, Dominic Jacques Dubeau and Jessica Mary Gail Beaudoin, Habib Challita and Meghan Burny.

Funerals/ Memorials/Celebrations of Life: The only funeral this year was for long time member and friend Jacques Renaud.

Respectfully submitted by Bernice Aye and Rev. Laurie McKnight

Choir Report

This year the choir continued to provide special music throughout the year, albeit with fewer voices. In particular, we have truly missed our sole bass voice of many years, Derek Carlisle, who moved back to his old stomping grounds of New Brunswick last year. Derek played many outstanding leadership roles in our life as a congregation in addition to his foundational role in the choir. We trust he is as much appreciated in his home church community in Fredericton as he was here in Ottawa. We thank him for his many years of faithful membership and leadership.

With great sorrow, the choir marked the death in June of our beloved tenor, philosopher, and cyclist Jacques Renaud, who for many years also took care of our piano and organ tuning and maintenance. The week the choir held Thursday evening choir practice at Jacques' home during his illness turned out to be his last week with us. At Jacques' memorial service, the choir remembered the words of the song Jacques had sung in the men's quartet the previous October at Derek's birthday concert:

There's music in the air
 when the twilight's gentle sigh
is lost on evening's breast,
 as its pensive beauties die.
Then O! the loved one is gone,
make the pure celestial song;
angel voices greet us there,
in the music of the air.

For our special music at Easter and Christmas this year, the choir was blessed with the participation of organ teacher Theresa Van Den Boogaard, who teaches in our sanctuary, and her student, Thea, who took part in special musical services on 1 April and 23 December. For the Christmas music, we were also joined by Theresa's partner (voice) and son (cello), and Irene Grose (violin). The extra musical resources and the arrangements of songs by Theresa and Thea made our musical celebrations richer at those high points of the church season. Although the choir did not perform a Christmas or Easter cantata service this year given our smaller size, we were able to make use of portions of the music of previous Easter and Christmas cantatas to make our Holy Week and Advent music special.

We enjoyed the memorable talents of Joe Ramsay, the guest speaker at our church anniversary service in November, who brought his guitar and amp and led enthusiastic singing of contemporary songs. Joe is a United Church minister and professional musician from Napanee whose warm voice and contemporary style is a musical and spiritual gift to the congregations he visits. We also greatly enjoyed the jazz saxophone music performed by Peter Woods, minister of MacKay United, during the joint summer services we again held with their congregation last summer.

We wish to make special mention of our soprano Marg Bennett, who in addition to being our candle lighter and keeper of birthdays, has for many years also helped keep the choir's music library organized. Marg has stepped back from regular attendance at choir practice this year after

many decades of faithful attendance, while still joining us for Sunday morning anthems when possible. Marg has been involved in church music and choirs her entire life, dating back to when she was first exposed to organ music turning pages for her father, an organist, composer and choir director in Windsor, Ontario. We miss Marg's flawless sight-reading and ability to switch seamlessly between melody and harmony lines. We are glad she continues to join our Sunday morning anthems whenever possible.

Finally, a high point of the year for the choir was taking part in Laurie and Grant's wedding in Norway Bay last summer, where the choir performed "You Raise Me Up" with solos by Martha Milne and Frank Duern. The beautiful setting and the joy of the occasion made it a day to remember for many reasons!

Paul Grose

Christian Development Report 2018

Children's Ministry

Our children's ministry on Sunday mornings continued under the leadership of Elaine Grose whose gentle, caring, faithful presence with the children was a real blessing. Children continue to gather at a small table in the sanctuary for interesting projects and then come forward for the Time for the Young and Young at Heart. Our minister Laurie took the lead on this lesson and this year she encouraged other members of the congregation to share their gifts and stories during this time. Thanks to Grant Gilliland and to Patrick Wilmot who gladly took up this invitation. Patrick is going to share with us the Moon Teaching from Indigenous culture each month as well as other stories. After that conversation during worship they go to the parlour for their lesson and activities.

When we learned that Elaine Grose was going to focus on her studies at Algonquin College we were delighted to interview a newcomer to the church Yujin Oh, who possesses a Masters of Education from UOttawa and we welcomed her many gifts for this ministry in September.

Our children's ministry continues to use the curriculum of Seasons of the Spirit by Wood Lake Publishing. Copies from either Bible Activity Sheets for Special Days by Betty De Vries and Mary Loeks or Bible Play Book by Frances W. Keene has been used for children to enjoy some creative activities and brain exercises at the small table at the back of the sanctuary during the worship service. After the time for the Young and Young at Heart, the children go downstairs to the parlour for the rest of the class time. The class starts with a prayer and a conversation about an expected lesson for a day. Then, children volunteer to take turns to read aloud a bible story from any of, Spark Story Bible by Spark House, the Seasons of the Spirit, or The Children's Daily Devotional Bible by Robert J. Morgan. After reading the bible story, children engage in discussion about it. After the bible study, children are encouraged to do some fun activities like drawing, colouring, making arts and crafts, finding objects, playing some characters and games, deciphering letters or codes and more. Three children regularly come join

our children's ministry and with visitors attendance can reach five and more. Our hope for the children's ministry is that the children will get to know Jesus Christ and his overflowing and powerful love and to follow his amazing ways to share his love and grace with others throughout our lifetimes.

Adult Education and Formation

A Bible Study/prayer group of 3-5 devoted people met throughout the year on Wednesday mornings each week except on the days that the Sandy Hill Seniors Network met for their monthly meeting. We continued to use the readings from the Revised Common Lectionary as our focus for reflection. This group was always open to visitors and newcomers seeking learning and prayer. In the spring Laurie met with two adults in preparation for confirmation and re-affirmation of faith. Laurie also met weekly in the fall with a visiting research professor from China who wished to learn about the bible and Christian faith. These were very enriching experiences.

Lighting the Way Forward Workshops

We held two significant workshops to further the reconciliation journey which were funded in part by our generous grant from the Embracing the Spirit fund of the national United Church. The first workshop which was open to the wider Right Relations Network was held at our church on June 2 and was well attended by people from many churches and the community. Leadership was provided by Patrick Wilmot, Rev. Dr. Cheryl Gaver, Ministry Candidate Claire Savage and Rev. Laurie McKnight. Through stories, games, film and discussion we explored myths about Indigenous and Christian people. The second workshop with the same leadership team was held at Knox Presbyterian Church on November 24th which was also well attended by a diverse group and included a simulation game and artistic activities. The purpose of this workshop was to further develop our personal symbols for life's purpose, reconciliation, personal and collective healing on the journey of right relations.

Rev Laurie's Continuing Education

Rev. Laurie attended the following conferences and study sessions:

October 15th – 17th Queen's Theological Annual Conference titled "Ministry in Times of Transition" held at Crossroads United Church. The Theme Speaker was Professor Richard Topping who is Professor of Theology in the Reformed Tradition and Principal of Vancouver School of Theology. She was also involved in the planning and leadership of this conference as she has in past years.

Laurie also attended a monthly study group on the theme of Process Theology reading various authors which met at the home of colleagues along the Madawaska River. The other Study week was for worship preparation and spiritual renewal.

Report submitted by the Rev. Laurie McKnight and Yujin Oh

Evergreens Report 2018

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: \$ 70.35

Income and Interest: \$187.08

Donation: General Fund. St. Paul's-Eastern United Church: \$200.00

Balance: \$57.43

Heather Oudit, Convener and Treasurer.

Final Ottawa Presbytery Report for 2018

The past year in presbytery has been a year of change as we anticipated the ending of Presbytery and Conference and the creation of a new governance structure. I attended regularly as your Order of Ministry representative and Grant Gilliland attended the meetings as his work allowed. They continued to meet on the second Tuesday evening of each month which often included a dinner. We were unable to host a meeting this year.

The final meeting of our Ottawa Presbytery was held at Rideau Park United on Alta Vista with a wonderful feast. We marked this important transition with a closing liturgy ably led by our Chair of Presbytery, Rev. Carla Van Dalen. This enabled us to be grateful for what has been and look forward to the future regional structure with hope, reminding us that God is still with us in this time of change. Gratitude was offered to the Presbytery staff who served us well for many years, administrator Wendy Mather, Rev. David Sherwin, Interim Presbytery Ministers Rev. Moore and Rev. Glen Stoudt, Larry Richardson and Rev. Whit Strong, Personnel Minister, and the Conference Staff who served our area.

This was an historic year as the church embraced new changes to become more streamlined in how our mission is accomplished throughout the wider church. General Council 43, which met in July, received the Remits that had been shared across the church in the past two years. The Remits asked congregations and presbyteries to make significant decisions about our church structure and how we will do our work together in the future, recognizing that resources,

both human and financial, are diminishing. As a result of the remits it has been decided to let go of the Presbytery and Conferences that have provided our governance structure since church union in 1925. May 26th was the date of the last Montreal and Ottawa Conference meeting which was held in Hudson, QC as well as remote locations in Ottawa and the Eastern Townships. The hope is that some tasks will be centralized to provide greater continuity across the church as well as ensuring the highest professional standards and education for ministerial personnel and future candidates. This is a complex process as you can well understand and much of the transformational work is still ongoing in 2019. There is still much to accomplish and understand.

Our Ottawa Presbytery and Montreal Conference have been replaced instead by two Regional Councils, 12 and 13. We are located in Region 12 which has been named the Eastern Ontario *Outaouais* Regional Council (EOR – yes like the Winnie the Pooh character) which extends from Deep River, to Perth, Brockville, and the Seaway Valley to the Quebec Border also including the Outaouais and Pontiac County in Quebec. Quebec is Region 13. Rev. Rosemary Lambie has been appointed as the Executive Secretary for these Regions.

Here is a summary of their functions:

- Regional Councils
- Pastoral relationships.
- Sacramental licences.
- Lay service – licensed lay worship leaders and discipline of congregational designated ministers.
- Liturgical action of ordination to ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care; commissioning to the diaconal ministry or Education, Service and Pastoral Care; and recognition of designated lay ministers.
- Order reviews of communities of faith and work with the reviewer.
- Receive the reviews of communities of faith.
- Have authority to end a pastoral relationship.
- Investigate workplace harassment.
- Act on findings of the investigation in to workplace harassment.

La Table

La Table de concertation des ministères en français was established to ensure continued cultural and linguistic representation within the United Church of Canada following the changes to its conciliar structure.

La Table has three large goals: to support existing Francophone ministries, to help establish new ministries in French, and to assist the larger church in living out its commitment to French language expression.

The Office of Vocation and Ministry and Personnel

The Office of Vocation of the Ministry and Employment Unit has appointed Office of Vocation ministers to be part of a team of regionally deployed and General Council Office-based staff. They will begin their work on January 1, 2019, unless otherwise noted. These ministers will support the processes for the discernment and training of ministry personnel, the

determination of their fitness/readiness for accreditation, the fulfillment of continuing education standards, and the formal processes for oversight and discipline of ministry personnel.

The Office of Vocation minister for our region is Karen Valley as well as regions 11 and 13. Karen Valley (lay) works with The War Amps and is an active leader within her congregation, Zion-Memorial in Carleton Place, Ontario. She began her Office of Vocation work on November 1, 2018.

The minister who will serve the Indigenous Church will be announced at a later time.

Rev. Whit Strong was hired as the Ministry and Personnel staff person for EOORC (our Region 12)

Clusters and Networks

In order to enable communities of faith and individuals to join with other Christians in the Region on particular goals and projects, the intention is that clusters and networks will naturally form along these lines. Jane Dawson from Victoria, BC has been hired for a two year period to help identify these clusters and to facilitate their formation. She begins her work in January 2019. Communication at this time is primarily by various Facebook Groups and in 2019 the website will be developed for the Region. Meetings also make use of technology instead of face to face meetings to save on time and mileage. I do miss getting to know people more personally however and listening to a human voice.

Report on the Presbytery Involvement of Rev Laurie

Education and Students Committee – I continued to serve as the Chair of this Committee until March when I handed over the work to Rev Karen Boivin, the Minister at Cityview. I continued to serve on the committee until the final meeting which was held in November. By December all of the students and candidate's files were sent to the General Council Office. This was very rewarding work in most instances as I have been involved with the spiritual formation of students for over 15 years in one form or another.

Student Supervision- I continued to be the Educational Supervisor for Claire Savage, a candidate from First United Church, who is studying for her MDiv at the Atlantic School of Theology (AST) and is serving in a part time ministry in Quebec called Aylwin Pastoral Charge. She is a lawyer and is completing her Master of Social Work. This is a two-point charge serving Kazabazua and Low, Quebec. Claire is a brilliant and dedicated ministerial candidate and it has been a joy and honour to offer supervision over the past two years. She still has two years to complete but will be seeking new learning opportunities.

Pastoral Charge Supervisor – this is a role that I was asked to fill in 2017 for Buckingham Pastoral Charge, QC for a short time and then it resumed in the winter of 2018 until November when a minister in Ottawa, Rev Eric Lukas, entered into an experimental joint arrangement with his pastorate in Ottawa and Buckingham. The called minister is on sick leave for an extended period and although they were able to hire a woman who was Candidate Supply, a member of Presbytery was required to attend their Council meetings and offer support when requested. I attended meetings in Buckingham on about 4 occasions as well as numerous emails and found

the people there to be gracious, committed and a joy to work with as they faced numerous challenges. Reimbursement for these trips was provided by their Pastoral Charge.

Ottawa Chapter of Kairos

Last year saw the creation of a new Ottawa Chapter of Kairos, an ecumenical social justice organization. The particular focus of this group was on reconciliation with the Indigenous community and engaging our churches in education and action. Over this past year I served as the representative for Ottawa Presbytery although there were several other United Church people on this committee.

I look forward to serving in the new Region (EOOR) in a renewed capacity. The lay representative, Grant Gilliland, also continues to represent our congregation in the new Region.

Respectfully Submitted by Rev. Laurie McKnight

Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to submit this report after my first year as Treasurer, having been appointed by Council at our meeting of February 27, 2018. I am grateful to the late Jacques Renaud and his predecessor, Wayne MacWhirter, for faithfully discharging the duties of the position over a number of years.

I came into the position with little knowledge of church finance or accounting, other than what I had picked up from serving as Chair of the Board of Trustees, and I must confess that the transition was anything but smooth: Jacques's precipitous departure for health reasons and a change in bookkeepers at about the same time impeded the usual transfer of knowledge. Fortunately, I was able to get some answers from Patrick Saumur (church administrator), the Rev. Laurie McKnight, Tracey Wilmot (former administrator), Nancy York (former bookkeeper), Wayne MacWhirter (former treasurer) and others, and I thank them for their counsel. I also thank the congregation for bearing with me as I continue to get up to speed on my role. Finally, I would like to thank our current bookkeeper, Helen Sedgwick, for looking after the accounting side and producing the monthly reports that I need to track the financial situation of the congregation and report to Council, Presbytery and the Canada Revenue Agency.

Financial situation

At the Annual General Meeting in March, the congregation approved a deficit budget for 2018, with expenditures expected to exceed revenues by about \$81,000. At the time, it was difficult to predict how revenues and expenditures might be affected by our then ongoing efforts to lease the lower level to the Odawa Native Friendship Centre for an Early Years Centre. As it turns out, if we include the direct net loss from this unsuccessful lease project as an operating expenditure, our operating loss for the year would have been roughly \$99,000 (over budget) were it not for a \$20,000 interim payment from the Lloyd Wilcox Estate, which reduced our real deficit to about \$79,000.

We did rather worse than expected on the revenue side (even if we include the Wilcox bequest in revenues), with general offerings nearly \$20,000 lower than budgeted and rental income roughly \$8,000 lower than budgeted. These results can be explained by the loss of some major donors early in the year and our inability to rent out the lower level during our lease negotiations. In contrast, we did better than expected on the expenditure side, underspending our budget in many expense categories.

There may be a temptation to attribute much of the deficit to the Odawa project. However, the direct costs associated with the project (e.g. legal fees) were largely offset by grants from the broader United Church of Canada. Even if we add in lost rent, the total loss from the lease project represents only a small portion of our total deficit for 2018.

Budget 2019 projects a deficit of about \$40,000. This conservative budget factors in:

- lower salary expenditures as our Minister has moved to ¾-time ministry
- significantly increased pulpit supply costs (including mileage) during our minister's off weeks
- some further loss of major donors as the congregation ages

- the final payment of about \$26,000 from the Lloyd Wilcox Estate received in January 2019

Assuming no further bequests, the deficit in 2020 and subsequent years will be somewhere around \$70,000.

These large deficits are an existential threat to the congregation. When we run a deficit, we have to draw down on our investments, which have already been substantially depleted.¹ Indeed, we have already borrowed (i.e. spent) about \$75,000 of our \$264,000 Manse Fund, our only source of additional funds within our investments. Assuming the Region (formerly Presbytery) allows us to spend the entire balance of that fund (by no means certain) and assuming my above deficit projections are borne out, we cannot continue in our building for more than three years under a “business as usual” scenario.

One potential bright spot on the horizon is the ongoing discussions between the EDGE Network of the United Church of Canada, SPEUC and community stakeholders, which, if successful, could see the national church take ownership of our property (and the associated financial liabilities), pay us a stipend to top up our budget for several years and transform the building into a “community hub.” A successful outcome would put us in a substantially better financial position.

Everyone’s Sister Project

In 2018, SPEUC continued to provide administrative support to the Everyone’s Sister group in its goal to bring a refugee family (mother and son) to Canada.² Our role consisted in receiving donations arranged by the group, holding them in trust in a separate bank account, issuing income tax receipts to donors where appropriate (possible because of our status as a registered charity) and disbursing funds to the family for its living expenses (thank you to Grant Gilliland for handling the disbursements).

While the lion’s share of the work was done by Everyone’s Sister, SPEUC is proud to have helped in some small way in cultivating the seeds of a new life in Canada for our newcomers.



Geoff McGuire
Treasurer
St. Paul’s–Eastern United Church

¹ See Trustees Report for an analysis of our investments.

² See Outreach Report for more details.

Board of Trustees

Annual Report for the Year 2018

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.

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

At the Annual General Meeting in March, the congregation accepted the resignation of Eugene Lang; the Board thanks Eugene for his many years of service. On the same occasion, the congregation appointed SPEUC member Susan Mowers as a new Trustee. The Board thanks Susan for rising to the occasion. As of December 31, the Trustees were as follows: the Rev. Laurie McKnight, Nancy Thornton, Grant Gilliland, Wayne MacWhirter, Susan Mowers and Geoff McGuire.

Activities in 2018

In the first part of the year, the Trustees (represented by the Odawa Working Group) continued the work begun in 2017 to negotiate a lease with the Odawa Native Friendship Centre for an Early Years Centre on the lower level of our building. After receiving a Letter of Intent from Odawa requesting a purchase option in connection with the lease, the Trustees obtained authorization from the congregation and Ottawa Presbytery to enter into negotiations to that end. Over the summer the Board met to review the lease and refine the wording of the purchase option. Unfortunately, Odawa ultimately chose another site for its Early Years Centre.

As part of the above lease negotiation process, Trustee and Property Chair Grant Gilliland commissioned Cushman and Wakefield Inc. to conduct a real estate appraisal of our property. The appraisal, dated June 11, 2018, returned a rounded figure of \$2,640,000. While this appraised market value cannot be leveraged to improve our financial situation while we own the building, it does represent a potential source of funding if we ever decide to sell the property and continue to worship as a tenant within our current building or elsewhere.

In the fall, Council received a Letter of Intent from the EDGE network of the United Church of Canada proposing that the National Church take ownership of the church building and responsibility for building rentals and expenses, in exchange for which the congregation would continue to have a place to worship and would receive a stipend to cover operating deficits for at least five years. Further to approval at a congregational meeting on November 11, the Trustees signed the Letter of Intent and later informed Ottawa Presbytery, who will be involved in the discussions.

Shortly thereafter, Council received a proposal from one Peter Flegel that would see our building repurposed as the Mathieu Da Costa Centre for Global Harmony. It remains to be seen how this proposal might dovetail with the proposal from the EDGE Network.

In November, a subset of Trustees met with our financial advisor at RBC Dominion Securities, Luc Perron, to review the state and management of the portfolio, which are discussed below.

Donations

During the year, we were honoured by a legacy gift of \$20,000 from Lloyd Wilcox. Given the ongoing operating deficit, these funds were spent on operations, reducing the amount we had to withdraw from our investments during the year. This is one of a series of interim payments from Mr. Wilcox's estate. A final payment is expected in 2019.

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.

State of the investments

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

Year Ended	Balance		Year Ended	Balance
2013	\$560,629.00		2016	\$460,470.43
2014	\$573,078.00		2017	\$361,038.34
2015	\$613,857.68		2018	\$264,379.14

The 2018 year-end total is the sum of the totals for our three investment accounts:

Account		Market Value at December 31, 2018
Private Investment Management (PIM) Account (#376-63887-1-8)	Canadian Dollar Component	218,034.03 CAD
	U.S. Dollar Component	33,947.49 USD X exchange rate at December 31, 2018 (1 USD = 1.3652 CAD) = 46,345.11 CAD
Canadian Dollar Account		1.86 CAD

(#503-24785-1-2)	
All Accounts Combined	264,379.14 CAD

Embedded in the above holdings are the following restricted funds:

Description	Amount	Comments
Restricted proceeds from the sale of the Manse	\$119,000	When the Manse was sold some years ago, Ottawa Presbytery had us set aside \$264,000 as a special fund to generate income for the Minister's housing allowance. The principal itself could not be spent without approval from Presbytery. In 2017, Presbytery Executive authorized us to borrow \$60,000 of the principal to offset the cost of roof repair. On May 24 of this year, Presbytery authorized us to borrow a further \$85,000 to cover our operating deficits in 2018 and beyond. These authorizations have effectively reduced the restricted amount from \$264,000 to \$119,000. SPEUC is expected to repay what it has borrowed from the Manse Fund, if possible.
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.
Total restricted funds	\$194,000	This is the total amount of our investments that either cannot be spent at all or cannot be spent without special permission.
Total funds, less restricted funds, at December 31, 2018	\$70,379.14	This is the market value of our investments, less the total restricted funds. It is the amount that we are authorized

		to withdraw from our investments in future, if needed, to cover shortfalls in operations.
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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 2018 were \$5,344.46 + 694.77 HST = \$6,039.23. Most of the HST (roughly 70%) is recovered through our HST rebate for registered charities.

Transfers from Investments to Operating Fund in 2018

In 2018, the Trustees withdrew \$85,000 from our investments. These funds were needed to cover the following:

- basic operating deficit (insufficient income to cover normal operating expenses)
- one-time fees expenses associated with the Odawa Lease Project and the Sanctuary Renovation Project (lawyer’s fees not covered by grants, real property appraisal, accountant services)
- one-time loss of rental income

This figure would have been \$105,000 were it not for the \$20,000 interim payment from the Lloyd Wilcox estate, which was left in the operating account to meet expenses.

Beginning this year, the Trustees will not be withdrawing specific amounts from our investments for housing allowance, insurance and major capital expenditures, as we did in the past. Rather, we will simply transfer funds as needed to cover all shortfalls in the operating account.

Investment analysis

Over the year, our investments shrunk by nearly \$100,000. As indicated above, \$85,000 was withdrawn to cover one-time expenses and the ongoing structural deficit. The balance of the decline stems from poor performance of our investments (and of the markets as a whole) during the year. After several years of withdrawal-adjusted growth, the withdrawal-adjusted rate of return for 2018 was a disappointing negative –3.23% (i.e. negative). Our financial adviser believes the poor market performance to be related to rising interest rates and expects improved performance after a period of adjustment.

Future Support from Investments

If we exclude the restricted funds shown above (\$194,000) from our total holdings as of December 31, 2018 (\$264,379.14), at the beginning of 2019 we had \$70,379.14 of unrestricted funds available to withdraw from our investments if needed. Assuming 2019 revenues and expenditures are in line with our draft budget and assuming no major change in the market value of our investments, this unrestricted amount will carry to the end of 2019, at which point the Trustees will have to seek approval from the Region to borrow additional Manse Funds.

In light of the above, we are encouraged by the proposal from the EDGE Network. By taking legal title to our aging church building and responsibility for building expenses and rentals, the national church would be lifting a substantial burden from the shoulders of the congregation in terms of cost, time and liability, freeing us up to focus on what matters most: our mission. The proposal from Peter Flegel also warrants further study.

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, Property Chair Grant Gilliland, Financial Advisor Luc Perron and Bookkeeper Helen Sedgwick for their knowledge and insights.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Board,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Geoff McGuire".

Geoff McGuire
Chair, Board of Trustees