

GRACE UNITED CHURCH

2016 ANNUAL REPORT



Ministers - Rev. Stephen Fram

Organist and Choir Director - Malcolm Bradley

Chair, Unified Board - Martin Walker

Church Secretary - Thelma Blaikie

Grace United Church Annual Report 2016

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Minister's Report – 2016

We have a vision of a strong and vibrant congregation within a healthy United Church in Dartmouth. This congregation would be multi-generational, have a vibrant worship, and be welcoming and accepting of others. Members would be engaged in carrying out this vision; providing ministry to each other and reaching out to others. This ministry would take place in a building that is inviting, functional and accessible, meeting needs of the present and future members.

Grace United's Vision and Mission Statement – May 2012

Grace is a community that is strong, vibrant, and growing. We currently have partnerships with Scouting, Guiding, the Club Inclusion, Halifax Association of Community Living, Bojeon Taekwondo, K&K Child Care and several entrepreneurs who are using our commercial kitchen. There is a program going on at Grace on most days of the week. It is a very busy place.

Some highlights for me in 2016. The work of the Becoming an Affirming Ministry team has been exceptional and we are ready to ask the congregation to make a decision. *Please see the full report* (pages 15 and 16). We continued to grow into our new Audio Visual system including building a strong team of volunteers to use the system to it full potential. And due to your generous support, we have Phase I and II of the AV project nearly completely paid for. In 2016 we continued to enhance our pastoral care for our community of faith through the Pastoral Visiting team. Our Pastoral Visiting Team coordinator is Betty Lou Suddard and I am deeply appreciative of her commitment and ministry in this area. In 2016 the "Heart of Dartmouth" refugee team (a team of forty plus persons) successfully brought a Syrian Refugee Family to Halifax and supported the family throughout the year. Our hope is that the "Heart of Dartmouth" model for community engagement will be able to be adapted for other projects and ministries moving forward.

In 2016 we celebrated Malcolm Bradley's 25th year as our Music Director and Organist. Your support helped make the Dr. Mark Sirett weekend a reality. Your generous support also allowed us to commission the writing of sacred Anthem in Malcolm's honour by Mark Sirett. It will be ready this fall.

In 2016 we were delighted to re-engage in both the AST Supervised Field Placement program and the United Church Internship program. April Hart (SFE Student) and Mary Jo Harrison (Intern) both quickly became an integral part of our ministry team and it has been a delight for me to be their supervisor and to accompany them on their journey towards ordained ministry.

All of our committee's have been busy in 2016. I encourage you to continue reading this report to see the depth of their ministry.

Looking back at 2016 and forward to 2017, I see Grace as a strong and vibrant congregation that values its heritage, while seeking ways to both enhance its ministry and grow the congregation. Our next steps are to continue to grow our ministry as we reach out into the community and the world in Jesus name, transforming lives through our faithful discipleship.

Minister's Report – 2016 (continued)

In closing let me express my gratitude for the ministry of the members of the Unified Board, its committee's, and groups. Their support, guidance and leadership is what makes our mutual ministry and mission strong and vibrant.

To our intern, Mary Jo Harrison; our Supervised Field Student from AST, April Hart; our music director, Malcolm Bradley; our administrative assistant, Thelma Blaikie; and our caretaker, Bill Busby, I say thank you for your ministry and the opportunity to minister with you.

Yours in Christ's Service,

Rev. Stephen Fram

Intern's Report - 2016

As I gather my thoughts and prepare to add some words about my experience at Grace so far, one word comes to the forefront of my mind most often. And that word is "thankful". That is how I feel when I think about the time I have spent with you over the last five months - filled with a deep thanks for all that you have made possible for me to experience of ministry while I have been in your midst. I have enjoyed working with and alongside you all, as I learn more about ministry in the United Church, and as I discern my place within it. I have come away from every moment and encounter transformed in some way. Thank you all for encouraging me, thank you all for challenging me, thank you all for making me feel like a part of the Grace family. You are a generous and supportive people, and I feel that whatever ministry I am lucky enough to be entrusted with in the future, it will be a stronger and fuller ministry because it will be forever rooted in the lessons that I have learned here as your (student) minister.

The thanks that I feel includes each and every person here at Grace, but I must lift up a number of individuals for special thanks:

Rev. Stephen Fram - thank you for being a fantastic supervisor! Thank you for taking this role of Educational leadership seriously by sharing your wisdom, experience and insights so freely with me. Thank you for your patience, your humour, and most importantly your kind guidance.

Brian, Pat, and Barb (Lay Supervision Team, or LST) - thank you so much for working with me. Thank you for encouraging and challenging me to be a more caring and conscientious minister through your compassionately delivered feedback. You have all been a wonderful help.

Thelma - thank you so much for your patience and guidance as I still work to get to know my way around the day to day life of this church and its people.

Malcolm - thank you for guiding me in the choice of music in the services we lead together, so that we can find music that works for people of diverse musical abilities and theologies, in an effort to make worship something that has meaning for everyone. Also, thank you for showing me that yes, it is possible to update some of the lyrics of well loved songs to make them more appropriate for today's audiences.

Bill - thank you for helping me to keep my office looking the way it should. It has been great working with you at Stairs as well.

To all of you here at Grace, I thank you for being open to letting me try new things that I have always wanted to try (the Observer Study Group), and inviting me to take part in some of your most cherished traditions (the Grumpy Innkeeper). I look forward to whatever experiences we will share in the next few months. Take Care.

Blessings,

Mary Jo Harrison

Baptisms

- February 28, 2016 - Emilie Ruth Garnham
- June 26, 2016 - Harrison Gregory Lines
- July 10, 2016 - Erin Rose Mayka
- October 09, 2016 - Luc Arthur Auger
- Alice Violet Connolly
- Ellen Marie Connolly
- Lindsay Sarah Connolly
- Lucy Katherine Foster

Marriages

- October 22, 2016 - Craig Charles Morton and Jane Virginia Hurst

Deaths / Funerals / Memorial / Committal Services

October 18, 2015	-	James Wesley Wiseman
January 07, 2016	-	Pauline Ruth Beck
January 11, 2016	-	Clyde George Arnold
January 26, 2016	-	Margaret Sharon Hale
February 04, 2016	-	Mary Patricia Wilson
February 11, 2016	-	Eldon Archibald Gunn
February 20, 2016	-	Nancy Helen Davison
February 21, 2016	-	John Hugh Mallowney
February 22, 2016	-	Hilda Elizabeth Fulton
March 28, 2016	-	Phillip Lorraine Wynacht
April 27, 2016	-	Denzil Churchill Newton
May 28, 2016	-	Eric Edward Starr
July 24, 2016	-	Christopher Louis Creese
August 20, 2016	-	Gloria Ross Fisher
September 05, 2016	-	Bruce Russell
September 12, 2016	-	Joanne Elizabeth Simpson
October 31, 2016	-	Vince Joseph Adams
November 04, 2016	-	Sherman Russell Joyce
November 10, 2016	-	Raymond Alexander Steeves
December 08, 2016	-	Arthur Winston (Dooley) Churchill
December 08, 2016	-	Joyce Tinkham

Some "People" Statistics - 2016

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Number of Households	280	270	263	262	260
Number of Persons	658	643	632	630	628
Membership, January 1 st	585	587	585	584	583
Received by Profession of Faith	5	0	1	0	1
Received by Transfer	3	5	7	1	2
Restored	0	0	0	0	0
Adjustment	0	0	0	0	0
Members Who Died	4	6	9	2	10
Members Who Transferred	2	1	0	0	0
Removed At Own Request	0	0	0	0	0
Membership, December 31 st	587	585	584	583	576
Resident Members	413	411	412	411	405
Non-Resident Members and/or Inactive	174	174	172	172	171
Baptism					
Children (12 and under)	3	10	8	5	8
Adult	1	1	0	0	0
Marriages	2	2	3	1	1
Funeral/Memorial Services	7	8	12	6	14

Minutes
Annual Congregational Meeting
Grace United Church
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
February 28, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

Martin Walker, Chair of the Unified Board, called the Annual Congregational Meeting to order at approximately 12:38 pm, on February 28, 2016. The meeting was held in the lower hall of Grace United Church. Sufficient members of the congregation attended the meeting to constitute a quorum (quorum is 20 members). The minister was present.

DEVOTION

The Reverend Stephen Fram led the devotion. He asked the congregation to remember those of our members who passed away in 2015 as he read out each of their names. He closed in prayer.

APPROVAL OF THE ACTING SECRETARY

MOTION: Moved by Jenny de Zoete and seconded by Ann Dent that Thelma Blaikie be approved as the acting secretary. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Moved by Darrell Spencer and seconded by Clifford Muise that the Agenda be approved as written. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2015 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

MOTION: Moved by Mark Hazen and seconded by Alice Baker that the Minutes of the 2015 Annual Congregational Meeting be approved as circulated. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL REPORTS

MOTION: Moved by Cindy Penney and seconded by Jenny de Zoete that the Annual Reports for 2015, with the exception of the Treasurer's Report 2015 and the Budget 2016, be approved as circulated. Motion carried.

Minutes
Annual Congregational Meeting
Grace United Church
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
February 28, 2016

2015 TREASURER'S REPORT

Brenda Picco presented the Treasurer's Report. The detailed report is found on pages 39, 40 and 41 of the 2015 Annual Report.

MOTION: Moved by Brenda Picco and seconded by Mark Hazen that the Grace United Church Treasurer's Report for 2015 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

2016 BUDGET

The Budget was presented by Connie Mack. The proposed budget is on pages 40 and 41 of the 2015 Annual Report.

Salaries, Contract Fees and Honorariums - Two per cent (2.0%) is the recommended cost of living allowance for 2016 as determined by the United Church of Canada. It is proposed that for 2016 the salaries for staff, the contract fees for the Janitor and all Honorariums be increased by two per cent (2%).

Salary for Minister - The calculation of pensionable earnings has changed. July 1, 2018, new salary scale to be implemented. We are proposing to split the changes up over three (3) years. For 2016, to decrease the allotment for study leave to the minimum and thus this will allow the amount designated as salary to be increased. Changes for next two (2) years still to be determined.

MOTION: Moved by Bruce Hansom and seconded by Mark Hazen that the recommendation for staff salaries, contracts, benefits and honorariums presented in the 2016 Budget be accepted. Motion carried.

MOTION: Moved by Connie Mack and seconded by Bruce Hansom that the Grace United Church 2016 Budget be approved as presented. Motion carried.

INTERN FOR 2016 - 2017

Funds have not been allocated in the budget to cover the costs of having an Intern for 2016 - 2017. Rev. Fram reported that the application for an Intern can proceed if the required funds can be raised by pledges before the beginning of May. The amount of the Maritime Conference grant has not been finalized yet.

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MISSION AND SERVICE OBJECTIVE FOR 2016

Mission and Service objective for 2016 was proposed as thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000.00).

MOTION: Moved by Connie Mack and seconded by Cindy Penney that the objective for the Mission and Service Fund for 2016 be thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000.00). Motion carried

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Blair MacKinnon presented the report of the Nominating Committee:

1. The position of Chair and Vice Chair are elected annually by the congregation.

Chair: Martin Walker

Vice Chair: Shirley Hazen

2. New members to the Unified Board for a three year term are:

Darrell Blenus

Lorna Carter

Katherine Chuchryk

Hugh Hall

Deborah Odell

3. Members of Unified Board reappointed to a new three year term:

Jenny de Zoete

Lynn Loder

Blair MacKinnon

Ann Mugford

Andrew Paton

Martin Walker

4. Elected to Chair of Committee positions for a three year term:

Darrell Blenus - Chair of Property

Hugh Hall - Chair of Ministry and Personnel

Lynn Loder - Treasurer

Blair MacKinnon - Co-Chair of Finance

Andrew Paton - Chair of Worship, Clerk of Session

**Minutes
Annual Congregational Meeting
Grace United Church
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
February 28, 2016**

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (continued)

5. Acknowledge the contributions of the following Board Members who are retiring from the Board
 - Bruce Hansom - Chair of Ministry and Personnel
 - Connie Mack - Treasurer
 - Jill Thompson - Chair of worship, Clerk of Session
 - Eldon Gunn - Presbytery Representative (submitted his resignation just prior to his death)
6. Acknowledge the service of Brenda Picco - Co-Chair of Finance who is retiring as Co-Chair of Finance but is remaining on the Board
7. Vacancies
 - There is two (2) positions available as Lay Representatives to Presbytery.
8. Membership of Special Gifts Committee has not been determined and we ask the approval of the Congregation to have the Unified Board approve those nominated.

The Chair called for further nominations from the floor three times.

MOTION: Moved by Shirley Hazen and seconded by Jill Thompson that nominations cease.
Motion carried.

MOTION: Moved by Blair MacKinnon and seconded by Alice Baker that we accept the report of the Nominating Committee. Motion carried.

Blair MacKinnon thanked the other members of the Nominations Committee: Shirley Hazen, Vicki Harvey, Ann Mugford and Martin Walker for their contribution in securing the nominees for membership on the Unified Board.

NEW BUSINESS

North Dartmouth Outreach Resource Centre (NDORC)

Annual meeting to be held March 14, 2016.

Grace United Church continues to support the centre.

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Annual Congregational Meeting
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WORDS OF APPRECIATION

Martin Walker gave thanks to the staff, contract staff and student - Stephen Fram, Malcolm Bradley, Tamara Kotenko, Thelma Blaikie, Bill Busby and April Hart. A Thank You to Frances Wallace for her role in Bookkeeping and to Harry Wallace for his role in Payroll. Committee Chairs and members of committees were thanked for their contributions. A special Thank You to the Heart of Dartmouth for their success in bringing a refugee family to this area.

A vote of thanks was extended to everyone who helped to prepare or serve the delicious lunch to the congregation before the meeting.

BENEDICTION

The meeting was closed by Rev. Stephen Fram with the delivery of the Benediction.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Moved by Jenny de Zoete and seconded by Darrell Spencer that the meeting be adjourned at 1:46 pm. Motion carried.

Thelma Blaikie, Acting Secretary

Approved by: _____

Report of the Chair of the Unified Board 2016

A couple of years before I retired I had the privilege of being on the board of an international economic development organization. At one of our board meetings, a colleague from Omaha, Nebraska told a group of us gathered one evening something that resonated with me then and it still does now. He said, in a half-joking manner, "My boss told me that he was rolling out a new strategy this year, and it's called doing stuff! " We all laughed and at the same time we knew that what he said was profound.

Well, I think we embrace this strategy at Grace. At least that is my observation as chair for the past two years. We do lots of stuff that touches the lives of many. We are community-minded. We are united in our commitment to making a difference in our community. We are good stewards of our resources. We have a strong commitment to pastoral care and outreach. We are innovative and creative as we seek to meet the needs of our community. And we are flexible to meet the changing needs of the future. We will not let moss grow beneath our feet.

In Blair MacKinnon's chair report from two years ago, he wrote about his appreciation for the quality of our leadership and the strength and commitment of our volunteer base. I agree. It is this "people advantage" that we have at Grace that allows us to do the many things we do. It seems to work pretty well.

In my monthly updates I tried to keep folks up-to-date on all the many projects and initiatives underway. I am not going to do that in this report. Needless to say the list is a long one. Grace United is a bee-hive of activity within the church itself. You don't need to take my word for this, just look at the calendar on the website. And, Grace United is active outside of our doors doing good work. This takes the dedication of many people who give freely of themselves. We are blessed.

I was supposed to get my report into Thelma on January 29 and here it is February 6. However, in being late I am able to make mention of the February 3-5 music weekend with Dr. Mark Sirett. This event, initiated in the fall and involving many volunteers, was a professional-grade workshop experience for choristers from all over that culminated in a stirring performance by our choir on Sunday. And Ron did a pretty good job as narrator, too! The idea was developed, planned, taken to the congregation, supported and delivered in months. This is what I love about Grace United. We are a positive group disposed to doing positive things.

I also want to reach out and thank the Heart of Dartmouth community. The deep commitment your group made in helping the al Gawabara family start a new life here is remarkable.

In closing, it has been my honour to be asked to serve as Chair for the past two years. The Grace family is special. I don't know how else to put it. Thank you to everyone.

Respectfully submitted,

Martin Walker

Members of Unified Board 2016

Minister

Rev. Stephen Fram

Intern

Mary Jo Harrison (September to December)

Chair

Martin Walker

Vice Chair

Shirley Hazen (March to December)

Immediate Past Chair

Blair MacKinnon

Clerk of Session

Jill Thompson (January to March)

Andrew Paton (March to December)

Treasurer

Connie Mack (January to March)

Lynn Loder (March to December)

Envelope Steward

David Huestis

Worship Committee

Jill Thompson, Chair (January to March)

Andrew Paton, Chair (March to December)

Alice Baker

James Connolly

Martin Walker

Christian Development Committee

Vicki Harvey, Chair

Ann Dent (January to October)

Ian Hayward

Mark Hazen

Pastoral Care / Outreach Committee

Ann Mugford, Chair

Pat Cleave (January to August)

Donna Sameoto

Ministry and Personnel Committee

Bruce Hansom, Chair (January to March)

Hugh Hall, Chair (March to December)

Lorna Carter (March to December)

Jenny de Zoete

Members of Unified Board 2016 (continued)

Finance Committee

Brenda Picco, Co-Chair (January to March)
Member (March to December)
Betty Robertson, Co-Chair
Blair MacKinnon, Co-Chair (March to December)
Bruce Hansom (January to March)
Lynn Loder
Connie Mack (January to March)

Property Committee

Darrell Harvey, Chair (January to March)
Member (March to December)
Darrell Blenus, Chair (March to December)
Andrew Paton (January to March)
Robert Picco
Darrell Spencer

Innovation and Implementation Committee

Brian Foster Co-Chair
Karen Foster Co-Chair
David Foster
Brian Hennen
Paul McKeown

Special Gift Fund Committee

Connie Mack, Chair (January to March)
Lynn Loder, Member (January to March)
Chair (March to December)
Bruce Hansom (January to March)
Blair MacKinnon (March to December)
Betty Robertson (March to December)

Communication Advisor

Brian Foster

Lay Representatives to Presbytery

Mark Hazen
Cindy Penney

Members, Unified Board (Not on a Committee)

Katherine Chuchryk (March to December)
Pat Cleave (September to December)
Shirley Hazen (January to March)
Clifford Muise
Laura Muise
Deborah Odell (March to December)
Marsha Tinkham

Becoming an Affirming Ministry (2014-2017)

Becoming an Affirming Ministry within the United Church of Canada is intended to be a time for education, reflection, and decision about what that would mean for the folks of Grace United. We have taken our time. We have requested and received feedback, suggestions, recommendations from the congregation, the community, and from the National Affirm United Council.

The process began on March 27, 2014 when the Unified Board voted to proceed with the process of "Becoming an Affirming Ministry".

Congregational events included:

1. Becoming an Affirming Ministry – the Basics
2. Becoming an Affirming Ministry – movie viewing and discussion (Pride, 2014) at Grace and Parklands.
3. Becoming an Affirming Ministry – What does the Bible have to say?
4. Becoming an Affirming Ministry – the drafting of a Vision, Mission and Action Statement.

In September 2016 the Unified Board received Grace United Affirming Ministry Vision and Mission Statement and Action Plan and sent it to all committees for discussion and asked the committees to submit more detailed action plans.

The Affirm United Council was also asked to comment on our statements.

In January 2017 the statements were amended and a recommendation was passed to recommend the Vision and Mission statements to the congregation at its 2017 Annual General Meeting.

Before presenting the statements I want to thank everyone who contributed to this process. For me it hasn't been so much about adopting a new vision or mission for the church, rather it has been about living into (or as some like to say "leaning into") who we are and who we are called to become by God's Spirit. The process has been a blessing.

Statement as adopted by the Unified Board on January 26, 2017.

Grace United Affirming Ministry Vision and Mission Statement and Action Plan

Vision and Mission:

Grace United Church is an Affirming Ministry committed to transforming lives by living God's vision as an active part of the diverse community in the Heart of Dartmouth.

We journey in faith as people, embracing every age, race, gender identity, sexual orientation, family status, mental and physical ability, cultural background and socio-economic status in the life and work of Grace United Church.

Action Plans: *(Simply put, they are a blueprint for how we live out our Vision and Mission statement and are intended to be reviewed and amended as needed.)*

We are called by God to live and nurture our faith. Living God's vision challenges us to respect all creation, love each other as Christ loves us, and, with courageous love, defend human dignity and resist forces that exploit and marginalize.

Becoming an Affirming Ministry (2014-2017) (continued)

We commit as a community to:

1. Nurture faith journeys through education and experiential opportunities;
2. Use our resources effectively;
3. Advocate for and support community social and economic justice initiatives;
4. Create safe spaces;
5. Seek opportunities to recognize and nurture each other's talents and gifts and
6. Be open to surprises of the Spirit as we continue to learn and grow.

Action Plans (specific)

(Brackets and bold indicate group(s) responsible for action)

1. We will re-visit and evaluate our action plan annually. *(All Committees and Board)*
2. We will put the Affirm United logo on our outside sign, doors, website, Facebook, Twitter, Youtube, worship bulletins, powerpoints, letterheads, etc. *(All Committees and Board)*
 - a. We will put Affirm United logo on our Pastoral Visitation teams courtesy cards. *(Pastoral Care and Outreach Committee)*
3. We will set aside four Sunday worship services annually to highlight Affirming issues. (For example an Aboriginal Sunday focus) *(Worship Committee)*
4. We will annually celebrate the anniversary of becoming an Affirming Ministry. *(Worship Committee)*
5. We will encourage participation in the local events that promote Diversity. *(All Committees and Board)*
6. Our Affirm group will disband and be replaced with a Affirming Ministry Team consisting of at least two board members with power to add. *(Board)*
7. We will display the Affirm United logo in our sanctuary. *(Worship Committee)*
8. We will develop "Affirming Moments" (a very brief presentation during the Sunday morning worship once a month based on a single topic or incident related to being an Affirming Ministry). *(Worship Committee and Board)*
9. We will include an Affirming Ministry section in our library. *(CD Committee)*
10. We will attempt to send representatives annually to the Affirming Ministry conference and/or the Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble annual general meeting. *(Board)*
11. We will include the Affirming Ministry Vision and Mission statement into the contract wording for the Minister, the Caretaker, the Organist/Choir Director, and the Secretary, etc. *(Ministry and Personnel Committee)*
12. We will amend our rental policies to reflect our Affirming Ministry designation. *(Property Committee)*

At the 2017 Annual General Meeting you will be asked to vote on the following motions:

1. **That Grace United Church become an Affirming Ministry within the United Church of Canada.**
2. **That Grace United Church adopt the Grace United Affirming Ministry Vision and Mission Statement.**

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Stephen Fram

Worship Committee Annual Report 2016

The Worship Committee is responsible for matters relating to the worship service at Grace, including: recruiting readers for scripture at the Sunday service; prayers with worship leaders before the service; organizing and serving of communion; baptism and marriage approvals; pulpit supply arrangements, assisting in music coordination; and decorating of the sanctuary for key seasonal events. As well, we oversee the worship service for the Advent event, facilitate collection of donations for the Leprosy Mission appeal and some other duties following the cessation of the UCW at Grace United.

The 2016 year commenced with the following Worship Committee members: Reverend Stephen Fram, Malcolm Bradley (Organist & Choir Director), Alice Baker, Jim Connolly, Ron Shaw, Martin Walker and Jill Thompson, Chair (and Clerk of Session). Following the Annual Meeting, Andrew Paton, took over the role of Chair and Jill, after many years of dedicated service both as Chair and committee member decided to step away from the Worship Committee. In the fall, our new Intern, Mary Jo Harrison also joined the committee.

The Worship Committee held seven regular meetings in 2016. A regular meeting was not held in February, however a Special Meeting was called on Sunday, February 21st to deal with the approval of a baptism request. As well, the regular April meeting was cancelled by the chair because of a serious family illness.

Reverend Stephen Fram continued to provide the principle spiritual leadership during the worship services and otherwise at Grace United in 2016. This year April Hart joined the worship team as an Atlantic School of Theology (AST) student and Mary Jo Harrison as our student intern. Both these individuals participated on a regular basis in the worship service and periodically were responsible for the sermon. Ron Shaw led the service for two Sundays in February, and one in May while Rev. Fram was on study leave and at Maritime Conference, respectively. Ian Hayward also did this for a Sunday in May while Rev. Fram was attending a preaching conference in Atlanta.

In 2016, the Sacrament of Holy Communion was conducted at six worship services. Three of these were in the Traditional style, where the congregation is served in the pews and the other three in the Methodist style, where the congregation comes forward.

There were eight children baptized and welcomed into our Christian family at Grace in 2016. The children being baptized were given a children's bible, candle and certificate of baptism. As well one member of the congregation was received into membership through profession of faith.

One wedding was performed at Grace United in 2016 and it took place in October.

Christmas and Easter and the weeks that lead up to them, namely Advent and Lent, are key times in the church calendar and our worship services. On Christmas Eve there was both a late afternoon, children focused service, as well as a more traditional early evening service. In addition, since Christmas fell on a Sunday this year, there was an informal service on Christmas day. On Easter Sunday, there was both an 8:00 am service at the ferry terminal as well as the regular 11:00 am service at Grace United.

Other services during the year of particular note included: Scouting/Guiding Sunday (February 21), and the 163rd Anniversary service of Grace United (November 20th) at which the guest speaker was Mi'Kmaw elder Billy Lewis along with Joanie, a drummer/singer who also participated in the service.

Worship Committee Annual Report 2016 (continued)

Music and hymn singing continues to play a vital part in the worship service at Grace United. Both the more traditional, Voices United as well as more complementary, More Voices were used in 2016. With our enhanced AV system, the words to the hymns are now projected on the screens at the front of the church. There were choral anthems most Sundays, and/or choir members performed solos or duets and sometimes other groups contributed as well. The year 2016 marks the beginning of 25 years since Malcolm Bradly came to Grace as the Organist and Choir Director. Although the Worship Committee has not been directly involved in organizing the special events and activities in honour of Malcolm's service, the Committee acknowledges and supports these undertakings and thanks Malcolm for his considerable contribution to the musical life of Grace United.

Bible Playshop, a scripture based drama involving congregation members, also played a key role in Sunday services on a regular basis, by reinforcing and bringing the scripture passages to life.

In 2016 Grace United continued to participate in services at Oakwood seniors' complex in Woodside, as well as Parkland at the Lakes residential complex along Baker Drive, an area where a number of Grace United congregation members now live. The former were held on Sunday afternoon and Grace participated on a rotational basis with other local churches, while the latter was held once a month on Wednesday afternoons.

On behalf of the Worship Committee, I would like to thank all those who contributed of their time and talent to make the worship service an important spiritual experience. Also I want to thank the other members of the Worship Committee for their dedicated service during the year and I especially want to acknowledge and thank Jill Thompson for her many years of service on the Worship Committee. Finally, in particular, I thank Reverend Stephen Fram for his spiritual leadership and ministry, and Malcolm Bradley for his ministry of music.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Paton
Chair of Worship and Clerk of Session

Grace United Church Choir Annual Report 2016

Director and Organist	Malcolm Bradley (since 1992)
Members as at December 2016	27 (includes some snow birds)
Executive	President Eleanor Hall
	Treasurer Chris Wolfe
	Librarian/VP Ian Fraser
	Secretary Connie Mack & Margi Hennen
	Social Debbie Fram

Membership changes

There haven't been many changes in membership over the years in this amazing group of dedicated singers. Unfortunately, as we get older, there may be the odd retirement, and just late in December we celebrated the life of our longtime and twice-retired Winston (Dooley) Churchill, who joined his beloved wife Evelyn in the angelic choir. Somehow, though, he seemed to have sent us a new bass, Scott McGaw, for whom we are very grateful. A list of all present members is on page two.

Choir Mandate

To support the congregation in the singing of hymns and to enrich worship services with spiritual, inspirational, contemplative, and uplifting music with voices and musical instruments. The music genre includes sacred, classical, gospel, spirituals, modern African, and modern Western styles of composition and text. More and more choir members now enjoy singing solos or duets (sometimes coached by Malcolm) or even presenting their own compositions and arrangements.

Choir members, as available, take part in Sunday afternoon services at Oakwood Terrace about four times a year, singing the old favorite hymns and usually an anthem or a solo. Services are also held Wednesday afternoons at Parkland at the Lakes, Baker Drive, by Stephen Fram, supported by Malcolm and some choir members.

Whenever possible, choir members will sing at funeral services for the comfort of the bereaved families and friends.

This year, on occasion of Malcolm's 25th anniversary, the choir is preparing for a special service on Sunday, February 5, 2017, with music by Canadian composer and internationally renowned choral conductor Dr. Mark Sirett. Some of the music was already presented at Christmas time, even in Gaelic, and will be performed again on February 5th. Malcolm, ever so resourceful, recruited Joe Murphy, who is fluent in Gaelic, from the Dartmouth Choral Society, to teach us the pronunciation of this ancient language.

Special Services with choir

November 20 - Anniversary Sunday and celebrating Malcolm's 25th year as organist and choir director at Grace with guest musicians.

December 18 - Lessons & Carols, an annual special Christmas service again with guest musicians.

Guest organist - Pat McCormack, a choir member, always ready to fill in when Malcolm is away. Thank you, Pat, for your musical contributions to the choir and congregation.

Grace United Church Choir Annual Report 2016 (continued)

Guest musicians for special services were Heather Mayka, trumpet; Martin Walker, guitar; Jennifer MacDonald and Jennifer Dixon (Heather's sister), voice; Pat McCormack and Cynthia Davies, piano; Alison Roe-Smith and Heidi Weaver, flute; Debbie Miles, violin; Colin Oulton, in choir; JJJAM, and The King Street Band.

Appreciation and much thanks is given to these outstanding instrumentalists and singers, also to our choir members brave enough to sing solos, duets, trios, and quartets, and to the King Street Band augmenting the choir on occasions.

Many thanks and appreciation go to the choir members who are so faithfully attending rehearsals and Sunday morning worship services and especially to Malcolm for his dedicated work with this wonderful and gifted group of singers:

Sopranos

Sheila Haines
Eleanor Hall
Jennifer Eames
Karen Leslie
Jill Thompson
Mim Fraser
Hélène Lemay
Shirley Cameron
Margi Hennen

Altos

Debbie Fram
Brenda Weir
Ann Dent
Susan Forsyth
Frances Wallace
Connie Mack
Pat McCormack
Elinor Benjamin

Tenors

Chris Wolfe
Hugh Hall
Douglas Jones
David Fraser
Andrew Paton

Basses

Ian Fraser
Ron Shaw
Scott McGaw
Brian Hennen

Choir socials

For our spring season-end party we were invited to Susan Forsyth's house for a wonderful BBQ/potluck out on the patio, many thanks to Susan and her husband, David, for a lovely half afternoon. For the other half afternoon, JJJAM hosted The Groove Kings, a jazzy group from the Valley for a coffee house fundraiser to benefit the Mark Sirett weekend in February.

Choir rehearsals are Wednesday's from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm at Grace United Church in the upper hall, and new choir members are always welcome, particularly basses. Singing in a choir is a very rewarding commitment as it enriches the lives of both the singers and congregation.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Mack
Choir Secretary

**Grace United Church
Choir
Financial Report 2016**

Balance Forwarded January 1, 2016 **\$ 1,023.47**

Receipts

Dues	\$ 240.00
Donations	\$ 25.00
Donation - February Workshop	\$ 350.00
Donation - Malcolm's 25th Celebration	\$ 335.00
Total	<u>\$ 950.00</u>

Disbursements

Nova Scotia Choral Fed Membership	\$ 75.00
Social Committee Expenses	\$ 17.24
White Gift donation	\$ 50.00
Additional Vocal (Colin Oulton)	\$ 100.00
Total	<u>\$ 242.24</u>

Closing Balance December 31, 2016 **\$ 1,731.23**

Respectfully submitted:

Christopher Wolfe, Treasurer
January 10, 2017

Christian Development Committee Annual Report 2016

The Christian Development (CD) Committee met monthly from January to May and September to November. The committee oversees church activities that encompass education and community building within our church community. This year the committee facilitated the Nursery and Sunday School programs, the Adult Learning program, the Library management, various activities for seasons of the Christian year (Easter, Christmas). The committee is also the Grace connection to the Scout and Guiding programs.

We have 6 Sunday School students attending our program. Two committee members are delivering the lessons. Although the group is small, the enthusiasm is high and we certainly have fun. CD Committee has discussed different ways to address the need for support to deliver the program, as the pool of volunteers is very small. We are currently looking for a leader to take the Sunday School program on.

Ann Dent has taken a leave from the committee to focus on other priorities. She gave wonderful leadership for the Nursery and is missed. Currently CD Committee is covering the Nursery, with a young person being sourced out to take on the Nursery duties. We are always looking for volunteers.

Mark Hazen, Sandy Foster, Julie Wilson, Helen Gay and Janet Bond are the stalwarts of the committee. They are always there to support the programs and activities of the CD committee, taking leadership roles wherever needed. Thank you to the entire committee for their dedication and hard work. And thank you to Stephen Fram, for his guidance and support of our programs.

Vicki Harvey
Chairperson, CD Committee

5th Dartmouth Beaver Colony and Cub Pack Annual Report 2016

It has been another busy year for us at 5th Dartmouth.

The Beaver Colony meets on Wednesday night from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Most evenings we begin with our opening and then participate in a craft and play a few games. In the Fall we participated in Apple Day by selling apples at the entrance to the Dartmouth Farmers Market at Alderney Landing. This year we raised over \$700.00 for our group. In the first half of the year we had 12 Beavers registered and in the Fall we have 15 Beavers registered.

The Cub Pack meets on Tuesday night from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Most evenings we begin our meeting with our opening, inspections, badge work and play a few games. We went to Cuboree at Camp Harris and Lodges and Lairs at Camp Nedooae in the Spring of 2016. We also had a overnight camp at the Department of Natural Resources Camp in Chaswood in October. We had 7 Cubs registered in the first half of the year. We are up to 12 Cubs registered in the second half of the year.

Three of our Scouters (leaders) have returned from last year. We welcomed new Scouters Peter Walker and Dan Cluff to 5th Dartmouth in the Fall. Thank you to all of our Scouters for making the commitment to Scouting and the youth in our community.

Thank you to Grace United Church for providing the space for us to meet on a weekly basis.

Yours in Scouting,

Ian Hayward
Group Commissioner
5th Dartmouth

Pastoral Care and Outreach Annual Report 2016

Members of the Pastoral Care and Outreach Committee:

Rev. Stephen Fram, Donna Sameoto, Betty Lou Suddard, Eleanor Hall, Mary Walker and Ann Mugford (Chair).

Our Committee accepted the resignation of Pat Cleave, a long standing member, serving both as chairperson and secretary over her six year tenure. We want to express our appreciation for her contribution to the work of PC&O and wish her well as a member of the Intern Lay Support Committee.

We warmly welcomed Mary Walker as a new member to our Committee.

Following is a summary of our efforts over the past year to organize/initiate activities that support our congregation (Pastoral Care) and 'reach out' to our community (Outreach).

Pastoral Care

- **Visitation Coordination Committee** - Betty Lou Suddard is providing leadership for this committee. She has submitted the following report:

The Pastoral Visitors Group, consisting of 12 visitors who regularly visit "shut in" members of the Grace congregation, has continued to be active in 2016, visiting seniors in their homes, assisted living residences and Nursing homes. It is our mission to reach out to those members who are no longer able to attend church and to maintain a connection with them through phone calls, visits, cards or other means. Although the number varies, approximately thirty members of our congregation benefit from this ministry.

The visitor group meets every 2-3 months following visits. In May, we were inspired by guest speakers Jane Walker and Margaret Walker. Jane presently works at The Meadows Home for Special Care in Yarmouth as a Recreational Programmer, while Margaret, is a Speech and Language Pathologist with experience working with seniors. Both shared their experiences and discussed ideas and tips on visiting the elderly which everyone found very helpful. In October, our Guest Speaker was Jill Latta, a Supervisor at Northwood Homecare. She spoke about the Homecare Program and what that could entail in various home settings. As several Grace Visitors have encountered Home Support workers in the homes during their visits, this provided insights into the program and how it serves our members.

In the month of December, the Poinsettia Program was again carried out this year, with the delivery of 30 plants (or a substitute gift) by our Volunteer visitors to those on our list of "shut in" individuals.

The Greeting Card program, administered by Pauline Murdock, involves 1) birthday cards being sent to those who are 90 years and over, 2) Get Well cards, and 3) Sympathy cards. This has been a very busy year for Pauline, with 54 cards being sent in 2016.

Pastoral Care and Outreach Annual Report 2016 (continued)

Pastoral Care (continued)

- **Coffee Fellowship** is coordinated by June Charlton. We appreciate her commitment to this ministry.

June has submitted the following report:

Thanks go to all who participate in what is really a very important Grace United ministry. The Sunday preparation of tea, coffee and cookies is now much easier to organize since we were delighted with the addition of a new, spacious kitchenette on returning to Grace after the summer services with St. James. Many thanks to the great team who made all the changes.

In every month we always need helpers for the first and second Sundays but the following Sundays are always hosted by regular volunteers. Not a difficult task when volunteering. Step by step directions are posted on the kitchen wall, and assistance is always at hand for new helpers. Volunteers are asked to bring cookies and a carton of milk. We're always grateful when members of the congregation supply extra cookies, and our thanks go to those who regularly did this during the year.

If you'd like your name to be on a reserve list of volunteers please let Ann Mugford or me know. Serving at the Coffee time is a special way to meet the people of our Grace congregation!

- **Sunday Greeters** has been coordinated by Eleanor Hall. She is pleased with the response from our congregation, when asked to participate.
- The **Ambassador program** has been coordinated by Donna Sameoto. This has been a more challenging one to fulfill and we are hopeful to encourage more participation by offering a training session in the New Year.
- **Receptions for Funerals** were coordinated by Mary Walker. She has a dedicated group of volunteers she can rely on to assist her.
- **Fall Focus** - we wanted to acknowledge and celebrate all that we do at Grace, provide information and extend an invitation to participate in the life of our church family. During the October 16 worship service, this was accomplished through a power point presentation that was very well organized and created by Shirley Hazen. We extend deep gratitude to her, for her expertise and commitment to this project.

Outreach

- **Mitten Tree** - In December, our congregation was invited to decorate a tree with mittens, socks, and caps. These were delivered to Margaret's House, Brunswick Street Mission and the Out of the Cold Program at St Matthews Church for those who are in need of warm winter clothing. Helen Hartley coordinated this project.

Pastoral Care and Outreach Annual Report 2016 (continued)

Outreach (continued)

- **Coverdale & Alice Housing** - During the spring and fall, our congregation had the opportunity to donate personal care items to Alice Housing and Coverdale, as a way to support those who need this support. Helen Hartley coordinates these projects.
- **Unified Board Contributions** - Each year our Unified Board budgets \$3,500 for contributions, on your behalf, to agencies in our community that are involved in outreach activities. For 2016, our PC&O Committee recommended the following donations that were approved by our Board:

Adsum House	\$ 200
Alice Housing	\$ 100
Atlantic School of Theology	\$ 400
Benevolent Fund	\$ 400
Byrony House	\$ 100
Camp Kidston	\$1000
Coverdale	\$ 100
Dal Chaplain	\$ 300
Food for Phoenix	\$ 100
North Dartmouth Outreach Centre	\$ 500
Phoenix House	\$ 100
Stepping Stone	\$ 200

- **Truth and Reconciliation Call to Action #62** [re Education] - We asked our congregation to sign a petition to request our Provincial Government to provide a greater understanding of the historical and contemporary contributions of Aboriginal Peoples to Canada, by developing curriculum for Kindergarten to Grade 12. Our signatures were delivered to our legislature, along with signatures from many other churches and organizations.
- **The Blanket Exercise** - For the adults of our congregation, we invited organizers to present the Blanket Exercise. This exercise provided an educational encounter with the history of Indigenous people in Canada - one that most of us never learned. For those who attended, it was a powerful and revealing experience.
- **Christian Relief and Development Coalition** [in support of Feeding Others Of Dartmouth at Margaret's House - also known as F.O.O.D.
Grace United's representative on the Coalition, Ann Mugford, now reports to the Pastoral Care and Outreach Committee.
Here is Ann's report:

The Coalition is made up of representatives from fifteen churches in Dartmouth. The interfaith group supports F.O.O.D. at Margaret's House. Grace United has been a member since 1982 and currently has one representative. The group meets on a monthly basis excluding summer months.

Pastoral Care and Outreach Annual Report 2016 (continued)

Outreach (continued)

- **Christian Relief and Development Coalition** (continued)

Through regular Sunday giving and designated donations, Grace makes financial donations to assist the operation of Margaret's House. In 2016, those donations amounted to \$1487.92. Another special part of our commitment to F.O.O.D. includes approximately 24 members of our congregation (organized in groups of 8 and, on a rotational schedule) volunteer to prepare meals one day a month for 100 clients of Margaret's House. In addition to this, we help to provide special meals for occasions like Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. This usually involves cooked hams and turkeys.

The Christmas Full of Caring Auction and Dinner, held yearly in December, is the major annual fund raiser. It raised approximately \$20,000. Again, our Grace congregation was very supportive by donating baked goods, by sponsorship or by attending the auction. We want to express a very special thank you to all for your continued, generous and thoughtful support. Throughout 2016, approximately 3000 meals were served a month to clients at Margaret's House.

Our committee would like to express appreciation to our Grace family, who faithfully responded to our many and varied requests. We are truly grateful.

Finally, I would like to express gratitude to each committee member, for their steadfast support and constant commitment.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Mugford
Chair

Ministry and Personnel Committee Annual Report 2016

The Ministry and Personnel (M&P) Committee is responsible for providing consultative services to church personnel, to liaise between personnel and church members, to conduct annual performance reviews with our Minister, the Organist/Choir Director and Secretary and to construct and monitor the annual contract with our Custodian. Also, M&P is to provide Finance with annual guidance on possible changes to salaries and other expenses related to staff and the custodian.

At the 2016 Grace Church Annual Meeting, Hugh Hall was confirmed as the new M&P Committee Chair. Continuing members of the committee are Jenny de Zoete and Cathy Spencer. Lorna Carter is the newest member of M&P.

The M&P Committee met in early March to plan the performance reviews for staff and contractors and to consider related personnel matters. Subsequently, a modified, more generic approach to Performance Review procedures and formats was developed, staff position descriptions, remunerations and contractor terms were later revised prior to Performance Reviews. Performance reviews were completed during meetings in early June. In addition, M&P determined that there was not a current, comprehensive position description on record for the Minister of Grace Church. A first draft of a position description for the Minister of Grace Church was drafted and circulated to the M&P members for review over the summer. M&P Committee members will further develop the position description for the Minister over the next few months and expect to have it available for the next annual Performance Review, after appropriate consultation with the Minister.

M&P continued to be represented at monthly meetings of the Unified Board and to provide monthly reports, where appropriate. Additional meetings were held by the M&P Chair with church personnel in November.

M&P also worked on the implementation of the Grace "Affirming Ministry Vision and Mission Statement and Action Plan" and considered a plan for it to be incorporated into the operation of the M&P responsibilities. Further work is deferred until the matter is revisited by the Unified Board in 2017.

In mid-January 2017, the Chair of M&P met with the Finance Committee to present M&P recommendations for salary and related remuneration for all church personnel in anticipation of the budget for the coming year.

Respectfully Written and Submitted

Hugh Hall
Chair - Ministry and Personnel (M&P)

Innovation & Implementation Committee (I-Squared) Annual Report 2016

The committee met regularly during 2016 and included: Brian and Karen Foster (co-chairs), Rhonda Dixon, David Foster, Paul McKeown, Stephen Fram and Brian Hennen. Mim Fraser joined us for several of our first meetings but had to resign due to over commitment. We were joined for several meetings in the latter half of the year by Mary Jo Harrison.

We have three major, related initiatives currently in development:

1. A commemoration of the Halifax Explosion. David Foster, with some help from Karen and Brian Foster, has applied for funding for an audio-visual installation to showcase Grace's historic role in the Halifax Explosion and its aftermath. The idea is to hold this public event, which will have images and sound projected around the building, over two days around the 100th anniversary of the explosion. David has liaised with an artist who designed an installation at St. Matthew's United Church on Barrington Street, and the artist is keen to work with us. We are also exploring the possibility of a public film screening to align with this event-specifically, the CBC film *Shattered City*, parts of which were filmed in the church.
2. A Nocturne installation on the same topic as #1.
3. A concert at Grace with the 36th Canadian Brigade Group, a 31-piece band, to acknowledge the centennial of World War 1.

All three of these initiatives have been spearheaded by David Foster and depend on funding and willing collaborators.

This year saw a number of last year's pilot initiatives transform into more secure, sustainable activities.

- After a rocky start in February and March 2016 (with some of the first tenants moving out and few new leads), the commercial kitchen in Grace's basement now has several tenants and has moved out of the purview of I-Squared. For the time being, we are no longer actively seeking new tenants or monitoring the kitchen's success.
- The committee continues to support the development of inclusive programming and space at Grace, spearheaded by Brian Hennen. We receive updates and provide very limited feedback on:
 - o The Club Dartmouth, which is going strong;
 - o The inclusive choir, *Sing Together! Sing!*, which was launched in the spring of 2016 and has been a wild success;
 - o The bathroom and kitchen renovations, completed thanks to Brian Hennen's successful grant application to Halifax Regional Municipality.
- The committee continued to hear updates from the Heart of Dartmouth Refugee Sponsorship Group, but that initiative has needed little in the way of support or feedback.

Innovation & Implementation Committee Annual Report 2016 (continued)

Committee members conducted two research exercises. First, Paul McKeown completed his "technology renewal" inventory, documenting Grace's stock of technology (laptops, routers etc.) to see what might be nearing the end of its life, and making recommendations about which pieces to replace and when. Second, Rhonda Dixon explored alternative funding streams that might be available to us for new initiatives. The committee received a report and the options are under consideration.

The committee deliberated over several meetings on the logistics of Movie Nights, where the church screens a movie, invites the whole Dartmouth community, offers popcorn and pop for a small donation. Considerations included: technology needs (especially screens), licensing, appropriate movies, and ensuring cost-recovery. We decided to put this idea on hold and, ideally, test the concept by showing Shattered City as part of our Halifax Explosion / WW1 centennial events.

I-Squared's activities this year were slightly more conservative and less groundbreaking than the previous year - a little more "implementation" and a little less "innovation." This is probably partly because the co-chairs' expanding family took their attention away from the committee, but I-Squared's change of pace also reflects a committee, and a church, that have bounced back a little bit from last year's acute financial concerns and identity work. We believe Grace is playing a more prominent role in Downtown Dartmouth and serving its people more sustainably.

Prepared by Karen Foster

Property Committee Annual Report 2016

The property committee was very active during the year with a number of rental additions, upgrades, retrofits and maintenance programs completed.

I would like to thank the members of our group who worked tirelessly during the year to ensure the projects were completed in a timely fashion.

Highlights of the Property committee projects:

- Storage lockers in gym were finished
- Kitchen -
 - water Heater replaced
 - Swing doors added
- New daycare rental added and retrofit of area completed, with plumbing, paint and flooring
- Refurb of the back classroom continued
- Kitchenette buildout & fit-up
- The new accessible washrooms were completed off the upper hall
- A/V booth completed
- Roof repaired from water penetration over Minister's office
- Downspouts replaced
- New renter added to the upper hall
- Ceiling repaired in sanctuary
- General maintenance and repairs completed around the property.
- Dehumidifiers replaced in lower hall.
- Lower hall floors cleaned and waxed
- Alarm panel upgrade to accommodate more access numbers and better reporting

Our group looks forward to continue planning and execute projects that will maintain the integrity of property, offer the space for community and provide a safe and comfortable environment to carry out our programs and services.

Respectively submitted,

Darrell Blenus
Property Chair

Board of Trustees Annual Report 2016

During the calendar year 2016 the Trustees of Grace United Church were not called upon to exercise any duties related to the maintenance, acquisition or disposal of any assets of the Church.

List of Trustees:

Susan Forsyth
Darrell Harvey
David Inkpen
Blair MacKinnon
Darrell Spencer

Prepared by

Darrell Spencer, Chairperson of Trustees
2017-02-13

Presbytery / Maritime Conference Annual Report 2016

In 2016 Grace had two Presbytery representatives : Cindy Penny and Mark Hazen. In addition, Rev. Stephen Fram is the Secretary of Presbytery. The representatives attended four of the five full court meetings during the year, and Cindy attended Maritime Conference in late May.

Early in the year Rev Heather Fraser was installed as the new chair of Presbytery.

It was a busy year for Presbytery, and Conference, with the need to address a range of remits coming from the General Council deliberations on the National Church Report "Comprehensive Review Consultation Report" which made recommendations on the future structure of the United Church of Canada. There was a special information session held at Port Wallis in January to help presbyters to give their opinion on how many regions there should be if the 3-Court remit is passed. Halifax Presbytery felt that 10 with Maritime Conference becoming a region should be the solution. To date Presbytery has voted on:

Remit 1: Three Council Model (passed)

Remit 2: Elimination of Transfer and Settlement (passed)

Remit 3: Office of Vocation (passed)

Remit 5: Ministry Partners (passed)

Remit 7: Candidacy Pathway (defeated)

It was noted at the last Presbytery meeting that pastoral charges need to vote on Remits 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6. Grace is well on the way to meeting its commitments on this matter.

The regular business of Presbytery has continued with it providing support to Syrian (and other) Refugee projects, First Nations Truth and Reconciliation Commission follow-up, and support to pastoral charges. Over the past year there has been a consolidation of Halifax peninsula churches into the Hope Pastoral Charge. We would also like to note the alternative worship experience "Be" that took place at the Seaport Farmers Market in the fall.

Grace will be having its next Triennial Presbytery visitation this year. This is a service of Pastoral Oversight that Presbytery provides - something that for those charges that are working well may seem like a bother - but for a pastoral charge that is sliding it is an opportunity for a third party to ask if they need help and extend the helping hand.

Presbytery also assists with the funding of new ministries, current available funding came from the closing of Forest Hills and United Memorial. Overall Presbytery is a pretty lean organization budget-wise with close to 50% of its discretionary budget going to assorted missions, such as Camp Kidston and the Dal Chaplaincy.

Respectively submitted,

Mark Hazen and Cindy Penney

Men's Breakfast Club Annual Report 2016

Once again, the Grace United Men's Breakfast Club scheduled eight Sunday morning breakfasts in 2016, cancelling the first because of a snow storm, then proceeding with seven, each held at 8:00 am on the third Sunday of the month, fall, winter and spring.

The breakfasts continue to be popular, and fairly well attended, usually with between 16 to 22 men, attracted both by the pleasure of fellowship on an early Sunday morning, and by the nutritious free food.

The food is essentially free because breakfast is provided, and paid for, by one of the four small groups who each take turns during the year. The groups are drawn from among the men, each group serving a hot and inventive knife and fork breakfast, with tea, coffee, juice, bread and jam, and occasionally fruit. All this heartily consumed. The format is simple: We say Grace, consume food, have a short meditation and prayer, introduce the speaker, and finally close with questions, appreciations, updates and then benediction around 9:15 am

In 2016 our Guest Speakers have included the following:

January 17 th	Snow Storm	Meeting Cancelled.
February 21 st	Kelly Rowlett	Barrister/Solicitor: Metal Health.
March 20 th	Margie Hennen	The artistry and creation of Dolls
April 3 rd	Speaker unavailable	General discussion.
May 5 th	Linda Hollett	Retried nurse: Trip to Cuba
October 16 th	Dr Brian Foster	Regional Autism Co-ordinator
November 20 th	Mary Jo Harrison	Journey to Internship
December 11 th	Malcolm Bradley	Christmas Carols around the piano.

We have no doubt 2017 will be another successful year and remind all men to make careful note of the upcoming breakfast dates given in the Grace Bulletin, or on the Grace website or Face Book. All are welcome. We assemble in the lower hall around 7:45 am, socialize over coffee, line up at the serving hatch for a plateful of the best, add a touch of whatever (salt, pepper, maple syrup, even ketchup), then sit at the table to enjoy a very pleasant morning with friends. An excellent start to the day. Come and join us!

Respectfully submitted



Dick Charlton,
on behalf of the Men's Group

Grace Women's Bowling League Annual Report 2016

On Tuesdays at 1:00 pm, from January to the end of April and commencing again in September until the week before Christmas, four teams of bowlers consisting of five bowlers each could be found at the Woodside Bowlarama enjoying bowling and trying to knock those pins down. Although they didn't go exactly where we wanted them to go, it was fun trying!

Not only did we bowl but we could be found socializing while waiting for our bowling turn. This is a great way to get to know our fellow bowlers better.

On May 10th we enjoyed our closing Banquet before our summer break. This was held at Ela's Restaurant in the Dartmouth Crossing, at which time prizes were given out.

After the summer break we returned to bowling in September. On the Tuesday before Christmas we bowled for chocolates. This was the final day of bowling in 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Miller

Social Media

Social media is an important way to reach out to people who are members of our church as well as other members of the community. It can be a way not only to reach out to others who may be curious about Grace but also present a positive image of Christianity. Grace has a presence through the website (www.gracedartmouth.ca), Facebook (Grace United Church) and Twitter (GraceDartmouth).

The Internet site is a more static presence presenting information about the Church and activities with a "slide show" at the bottom of the home page to highlight upcoming activities. The Church's Facebook site offers a more interactive experience and its postings are linked to our Twitter feed.

Our Facebook site is used in a variety of ways: to promote events at Grace; to inform people what we are doing; to raise spiritually interesting questions; and to present a face to Christianity that may be different than is often found in the American mainstream media. We also highlight activities of other churches and link to other sites that have material that we think is of interest.

The Facebook site offers the possibility of analysis of some statistics. Some people "like" the Facebook site itself (fans) and therefore are more likely to receive our posts. As of January 1, 2016 there were 172 people who like our Church Facebook site.

There is usually a daily post, some with pictures. We also participate in the "Throwback Thursday" so every Thursday there is a picture from some years ago associated with Grace United Church. During the course of 2016, there were 5,400 likes of posts made on the Grace United Facebook page.

Some posts perform better in terms of reach than others. On January 16, 2016 there were 1,691 people reached through Grace posts while at other times there is only 16. One of our highest reaching posts was when we changed the banner to celebrate Malcolm's 25 years with us (571 reached, 52 likes, 10 loves, and 13 comments). Because there were people shared it, more people saw it. Some of them made clicks through to other places on our Facebook site. Overall there were 93 "post clicks" - people checking out other things on the Facebook site.

The majority of our fans (people who like our site) are from Canada (164) then Uganda (2) with one person from a variety of different countries (e.g., United Kingdom, Nepal, USA, etc.). Within Canada, the majority are in Nova Scotia; with the top four being fairly close (52 in Dartmouth; 25 in Halifax; 24 in Cole Harbour; and 13 in Woodside). Most of our "fans" are female (69%), pretty evenly spread out in categories above the age of 24, although we have some likes in the 13-24 age group.

In the first 28 days of January 2017 there were 4,172 people reached by our posts, 3,987 in Canada. The range of people's friends help spread our reach. For instance, 127 people in the USA were reached, 16 in the United Kingdom, 15 in Australia, 7 in New Zealand, 6 in Germany and Netherlands, 3 in Mexico and Bermuda and 2 in France. Within Canada, most people reached were in Nova Scotia. The top three communities were: Halifax (683); Dartmouth (486); and Cole Harbour (403). Females were the vast majority (79%) of the people reached and the largest age group was in the 55-64 range.

Grace Initiatives Committee Annual Report 2016

As a member of the Grace Initiatives Committee I am happy to bring to the congregation a positive report on the activities of the committee during 2016.

We had the following fund raisers:

Church Bulletin

Bean Supper

Flea Market/Plant Sale

Lobster Supper

Memory Tree

Fall Tea and Sale

The gross receipts from all of these activities was \$16,976.00 and after expenses the net income was \$15,000.00.

For the upcoming season we are having a paint afternoon, which will have already taken place by the time this report is circulated. We are thankful to Debbie Fram for spearheading that activity and the committee is examining a number of other fund raising activities.

We are indebted to the congregation for all of their support for these activities throughout the year and look forward to another exciting and successful 2017.

Any assistance, ideas, etc. are always welcome.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

Blair MacKinnon

Member of Grace Initiatives Committee

Special Gift Fund Annual Report 2016

The Special Gift (Memorial) Fund is concerned with the publicizing of, administration of, and investment of special gifts including memorial funds which are both restricted and unrestricted as to use.

On the two following pages are the year end reports for the funds under the administration of Lynn Loder, Betty Robertson and Blair MacKinnon. The reports were prepared by Lynn Loder.

We would ask that members of Grace United Church remember the Memorial Fund of the Church when preparing personal wills and also for consideration for special donations at any time. Your continued support and generosity will ensure that future generations will be able to enjoy worship and fellowship together here at Grace United Church.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Loder

**Grace United Church
Memorial / Special Gift Fund
as at December 31, 2016**

		\$\$
	Fund balance at Jan 1 /16	64,771.02
Receipts	Donations - general	1,718.88
	Donations for Organ Fund	120.00
	Dividends	379.62
	Unrealized Gain on ManuLife shares at 12/31/16	2,394.00
	Interest	0.00
	Total Receipts	4,612.50
Disbursements		
	Total Disbursements	0.00
	Net Surplus at Dec 31/16	4,612.50
	Fund balance at Dec 31/16	69,383.52
Assets		
	Bank - CIBC	12,389.73
	GIC	35,000.00
	Total Cash & GICs	47,389.73
684 shares	ManuLife (stock value at Dec 31, 2016)	16,580.16
	Total Cash at Dec 31/16	63,969.89
	Due to / from affiliated Funds	
	Due from Grace Operating fund.	3,413.63
	Due from Ministry Bursary Fund	2,000.00
	Total due from affiliated Funds	5,413.63
	Total Fund balance at Dec 31/16	69,383.52
	Notes to Fund balances	
	Unrestricted Cash Funds and due from Grace general fund & Bursary	44,208.61
Restricted funds	Supporting the youth of the church Note A	466.59
	Supporting youth music at the church Note B	755.43
	Funds held on behalf of the Organ Fund Note C	1,959.10
	Total restricted funds	3,181.12
	Total Cash Fund	47,389.73

Note A - for the general benefit of supporting the youth of the church

Note B - for the general benefit of supporting youth music at the church

Note C - Funds held on behalf of the Organ Fund

**Grace United Church
Ministry Bursary Fund
January 1, 2016 to December 31 2016**

This fund is available to assist candidates from Grace United Church for the ordained or diaconal ministry of the United Church of Canada.

The principal balance of \$5,000 is to be maintained in perpetuity as part of the conditions requested when it was originally donated. Only the interest earned from the principal balance is allowed to be disbursed.

Balance of Funds Available	\$\$
for Disbursement - January 1, 2016	1,780.06
Interest Income earned during the year	0.00
Funds paid out to Ministry Candidate*	0.00
Balance of Funds available at Dec 31/16	<u>1,780.06</u>

TD Canada Trust GIC Plus with guaranteed minimum interest of 1.00% and a maximum return of 20%, maturing May 1, 2017	5,000.00
Reinvested accumulated interest	<u>3,780.00</u>
Principal amount invested	8,780.06

* amount paid from general Mem.fund account, to be repaid by Ministry Bursary Fund when GIC matures.
Total amount owing at Dec 31, 2016 is \$2000

**Grace United Church
Organ Fund
January 1, 2016 to December 31 2016**

		\$\$
Organ fund started 1963	Fund Balance	Jan 1,2016 10,136.96
	Receipts - Donations	120.00 due from Grace Givings/Funerals in gen. Mem.fund acct
	interest income	0.00
	Disbursements	<u>0.00</u>
	Fund Balance	<u>10,256.96</u>
	Cash & GIC	
	Cash held in Mem.Fund	760.22
	Receivable from Grace	1,198.88
	CIBC GIC 3 year escalating rate with 1.1324% in year 1 increasing to 3.00% in year 3 maturing April 16, 2018	8,297.86
	Total Cash and GIC	<u>10,256.96</u>

Report of Envelope Steward

Contributions of Grace United Church 2016

Month	Loose	Local *	M&S Fund	Building Fund	2016	2015
January	313	22947	12712	1890	37862	15525
February	197	12210	2456	1819	16682	13315
March	240	14909	2443	1833	19425	16293
April	198	12542	2485	1904	17129	19765
May	272	12939	2483	1925	17619	18090
June	203	11483	2412	1867	15965	16314
July	258	11174	2481	1825	15738	11219
August	0	8569	2009	1753	12331	17997
September	247	13453	2709	1862	18271	17481
October	393	13123	2664	2106	18286	15796
November	208	15239	2355	2098	19900	22337
December	1006	17540	2810	2398	23754	26075
Total	3535	166128	40019	23280	232962	210207

* includes Easter, Anniversary, Christmas and Initial.

Average Contributions

Year	Envelopes		Contributors without envelopes	PAR	Net	Receipts	Average
	Used	Not used					
2016	59	(3)	29	81	169	232962	1378
2015	56	(4)	40	83	179	210207	1174
2014	63	(8)	38	81	182	225232	1238
2013	70	(8)	22	79	171	224954	1316
2012	76	(2)	25	76	179	216271	1208

Report of Envelope Steward (continued)**Contribution Range**

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Unused	(3)	(4)	(8)	(8)	(2)	(2)
0.01 - 200	23	40	50	30	39	39
200 - 400	26	26	20	23	24	25
400 - 600	16	13	15	20	19	18
600 - 800	11	12	10	12	10	14
800 - 1000	9	9	11	9	10	11
1000 - 1200	11	14	9	10	10	13
1200 - 1400	15	13	11	13	11	8
1400 - 1600	13	10	13	9	11	9
1600 - 1800	5	5	6	12	11	10
1800 - 2000	7	3	5	5	7	7
2000 +	33	34	32	28	27	26

Special Offerings & Other contributions

	Easter	Anniversary	Christmas	Food Bank	F.O.O.D.
2016	2975	1725	2066	2609	1488
2015	2210	2820	4680	2327	1645
2014	2014	1519	5010	3339	3058
2013	2020	2435	2625	2096	1871
2012	1498	2120	4477	1283	710

Respectfully submitted,

David Huestis
Envelope Steward

Finance Committee Report Year ended December 31, 2016

The year 2016 saw some positive trends for Grace financially. Local budget offerings increased by almost \$2000 compared to 2015. Although offerings were not as high as budgeted, increases in hall rental, kitchen rental, as well as special initiatives revenue resulted in net income of approximately \$4000. This surplus has eliminated the accumulated deficit that was carried forward from previous years.

In 2016, we were also able to put \$10,000 into the building reserve fund to be used for future major repairs.

Another positive note was the repayment of an internal loan from the Memorial Fund regarding the sound system that was purchased in 2015. Only \$2839 is left to be fundraised for this phase of the project. We would like to thank all those members who contributed to this important venture as well as the AV Committee who implemented it.

Another important project in 2016 was the renovation of our upstairs kitchen and bathroom. The improvement of the accessibility and efficiency of this space has been enjoyed by the congregation and others who use it. However, this major undertaking has now depleted our building fund, leaving a balance of \$11,587 at year end. We ask that you consider making a special contribution to replenish this fund.

As we look ahead to 2017, our local givings must increase by 2% or \$3300 in order to balance our budget and cover our projected expenses.

As in prior years, we encourage everyone to consider PAR (pre-authorized remittances) as their method of giving to Grace. It helps smooth out our cash flow and enables us to predict our givings more accurately.

The Finance Committee would like to thank Frances and Harry Wallace for their excellent bookkeeping services, Thelma for her support throughout the year, and David Huestis in his role as envelope steward.

Betty Robertson, Co-chair
Blair MacKinnon, Co-chair

Grace United Church
Comparative Balance Sheet - General Fund
December 31

	2016	2015
Assets		
Assets		
Bank - CIBC	25,163	54,222
Short-term investments - GIC	21,143	21,038
Due from Sound System	2,839	26,319
Accounts receivable	1,080	424
HST recoverable	3,920	7,618
Prepaid expense - insurance	<u>1,470</u>	<u>1,470</u>
Total Assets	<u>55,615</u>	<u>111,091</u>
Liabilities		
Accounts payable - F.O.O.D.	1,010	989
Accounts payable - other	2,233	1,175
Due to Receiver General	1,383	1,335
Deferred revenue - kitchen	(782)	15
Deferred revenue - intern	5,250	
Deferred revenue – hall rental	3,250	
Deferred revenue – Web page dev	3,000	3,000
Due to Memorial Fund	3,413	37,075
Due to Building Fund	11,587	24,179
Building Reserve Fund	16,186	4,521
Due to M&S Fund	2,830	2,560
Due to Library Fund	1,109	1,216
Due to United For Dart Youth	396	396
Due to Church Renew partnership	3,000	3,000
Refugee Sponsorship Reserve	<u>180</u>	<u>34,094</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>54,045</u>	<u>113,555</u>
Equity		
Retained surplus(deficit) - general fund	(2,464)	4,151
Current earnings	<u>4,034</u>	<u>(6,615)</u>
Total Equity(Deficit)	<u>1,570</u>	<u>(2,464)</u>
Total Liabilities and Equity	<u>55,615</u>	<u>111,091</u>

Statement of Building Fund
Jan 1, 2016 to Dec 31, 2016

Balance, Jan 1, 2016	24,179
Donations received	23,418
Grant from Hunter Fund	9,000
Disbursements from fund	<u>-45,010</u>
Balance, Dec 31, 2016	<u>11,587</u>

Grace United Church
2017 Budget and Actuals 2016 and 2015
For the years ending December 31

	<u>Budget 2017</u>	<u>Actual 2016</u>	<u>Budget 2016</u>	<u>Actual 2015</u>	<u>Budget 2015</u>
Revenue					
Local budget offering	<u>162,880</u>	159,549	<u>165,459</u>	<u>157,731</u>	<u>170,913</u>
Special donation		<u>10,000</u>			
		<u>169,549</u>			
Mission & Service receipts		40,037		29,338	
Transfers to M&S Fund		-40,037		-29,338	
Interest earned	100	105			
Hall rental	20,000	19,780	18,000	18,834	22,000
Kitchen rental	7,500	7,749	2,000	1,335	
Other revenue		373		412	2,750
Funding intern	6,500	12,332			1,300
Internship donations	9,700	3,809			
Concerts				750	
Grace initiatives committee	15,000	14,999	15,000	13,483	9,500
Hfx Presbytery etc.	1,000	1,175		518	
Parish nurse funding				<u>1,425</u>	<u>901</u>
Subtotal other revenue	<u>59,800</u>	<u>60,322</u>	<u>35,000</u>	<u>36,925</u>	<u>36,451</u>
Total Revenue	<u>222,680</u>	<u>229,871</u>	<u>200,459</u>	<u>194,655</u>	<u>207,364</u>
Expenses					
Salaries & Honouraria					
Salary - Minister	57,158	56,313	56,313	54,090	54,090
Contract - Organist	17,380	17,123	17,123	16,787	16,787
Salary - Secretary	15,390	15,163	15,163	14,866	14,866
Honourarium - Christian Ed	500	250	500	500	500
Honourarium - Bookkeeper	1,800	1,700	1,700	1,668	1,668
Honourarium - Envelope Secretary	1,800	1,610	1,610	1,575	1,575
Honouraria - special music	500				
Honouraria - other	1,000	1,675	700	700	825
Contract - Janitor	11,912	11,736	11,736	10,932	10,932
Parish Nurse stipend				5,305	5,014
Salary - intern	<u>11,137</u>	<u>11,137</u>			
Total Salaries & Honouraria	<u>118,577</u>	<u>116,707</u>	<u>104,845</u>	<u>106,423</u>	<u>106,257</u>
UCC pension/ CPP benefits	14,800	14,597	13,750	13,298	14,200
El expense	2,200	2,241	1,736	1,694	1,700
Study leave & book fnd - minister	1,374	1,359	1,359	2,500	2,500
Professional dev - organist	<u>1,500</u>	<u>454</u>	<u>1,500</u>	<u>1,170</u>	<u>1,500</u>
Subtotal payroll expenses	<u>19,874</u>	<u>18,651</u>	<u>18,345</u>	<u>18,662</u>	<u>19,900</u>
Total Payroll and Honouraria	<u>138,451</u>	<u>135,358</u>	<u>123,190</u>	<u>125,085</u>	<u>128,157</u>

	Budget 2017	Actual 2016	Budget 2016	Actual 2015	Budget 2015
Expenses - cont'd					
Church Premises & Housing					
Housing allow - Minister	18,500	17,000	17,000	17,000	17,000
Housing allow - Intern	3,200	3,200			
Power	6,000	6,143	5,500	5,059	6,000
Water	1,200	1,106	1,000	988	1,000
Heating fuel	7,000	6,144	8,000	8,011	11,000
Repairs & maintenance	6,000	6,734	6,000	6,799	6,000
Furniture & fixtures	1,200	3,035	1,200	1,511	1,000
Computer upgrades/maint.	1,500		1,550		
Cleaning supplies & misc.	1,500	1,315	1,500	2,180	2,000
Total Church Premises & Housing	46,100	44,677	41,750	41,548	44,000
Church Administration					
Travel allowance - minister	2,750	2,922	2,750	2,636	3,300
Travel allowance - intern	200	212			
Printing, postage & stationery	2,500	2,422	3,000	3,190	3,600
Telecommunications	3,400	3,306	3,200	3,158	3,100
Insurance	6,000	5,881	6,000	5,752	5,400
Property taxes (Hydrant)	150	132	170	168	170
Bank & payroll s/c	1,500	1,382	1,500	1,437	1,400
Halifax Presbytery	7,963	7,908	7,908	7,523	7,487
Total Church Administration	24,463	24,165	24,528	23,864	24,457
Church Activities					
Choir	750	616	750	243	1,000
Christian Education	2,016	342	500	305	1,000
Worship	2,500	2,318	2,500	2,467	2,500
Coffee, pastoral care	600	454	700	725	1,200
Website upgrade & maint.	350	452	350	746	350
Miscellaneous	200	199			
Long-range planning Isq.		86		71	300
Total Church Activities	5,416	4,467	4,800	4,557	6,350
Allocations & Discretionary					
United Church Observer		(11)		100	
Outreach (discret. combined)	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
Unified Board	750	812	750	700	700
Total Allocations & Discretionary	4,250	4,301	4,250	4,300	4,200
Total Expenses Before Reserve	219,680	212,968	198,518	199,355	205,164
Allocation to Bldg Reserve	2,000	11,917	1,940	1,913	2,200
Allocation to Kitchen Reserve	1,000	952			
Total Expenses & Allocations	222,680	225,837	200,458	201,268	207,364
Net Income (Deficiency)	0	4,034	0	(6,615)	0
M&S Objective	30,000				

Audit Committee Report

We have audited the general operations balance sheet of Grace United Church as of December 31, 2016, and the general operations statements of revenue and expenses for the year then ended. Our audit was made in accordance with the Manual of the United Church of Canada and we followed the Grace "Self Audit Program" prepared by William Foster, C.A.

The committee conducted some random tests by tracing payments through accounts, reviewing the system of receipts and deposits of funds and posting to the General Ledger, and discussing the effectiveness of systems with those responsible. We did not have access to, nor did we examine, the accounts of various sub-committees and records of various fund raising programs, and portions of payroll managed through the United Church of Canada.

The committee found no irregularities and it is satisfied with the general operations of accounting systems used to prepare annual financial statements.

The committee recognizes the significant effort and time spent by volunteers and officers who are responsible for the various aspects of the accounting and recommends that this be recognized by the congregation.

Respectfully submitted,

June Charlton

Richard (Dick) Charlton