

GRACE UNITED CHURCH

2017 ANNUAL REPORT



Ministers - Rev. Stephen Fram

Organist and Choir Director - Malcolm Bradley

Chair, Unified Board - Shirley Hazen

Church Secretary - Thelma Blaikie

Grace United Church Annual Report 2017

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Minister's Report – 2017

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.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we journey together in faith as people, embracing every age, race, gender identify, sexual orientation, family composition, mental and physical ability, cultural background and socio-economic status in the life and work of Grace United Church.

One of my favorite phrases is “lean into”. I first heard the phrase during a visit with a grieving family who were planning their mothers funeral service. The person described their mother’s faith and life as something that she “leaned into”. As my hearing continues to deteriorate because of damage caused by childhood ear infections, a perforated ear drum, and the aging process, I find myself understanding the nuance of this phrase even more. As I struggle to distinguish between background noise and normal conversation I find that I have to lean into the conversation.

In 2017 the people of Grace continued to lean into our calling to be the church in the heart of Dartmouth. We did so in so many ways. We are leaning into our Affirming Vision statement. We lean into our faith as we seek to live out our mission and ministry in a variety of ways. This annual report is the story of how we are leaning into our vision and mission. I encourage you to lean into reading this report. Perhaps you will see yourself reflected in the story it tells. And perhaps you will find inspiration and ideas about how you might become more involved in how we are leaning into our call to be the church.

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 something worth leaning into.

To our intern (January to April, 2017), Mary Jo Harrision; our Supervised Field Student from AST (January to April, 2017), 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

Baptisms

November 12, 2017 - Harrison Robert Adams

Marriages

August 19, 2017 - David Evan Foster and Ashley Nicole Fry

Deaths / Funerals / Memorial / Committal Services

September 03, 2016 - Doris Isabelle Howell
January 04, 2017 - Dayna Jeanette Lavoie-Hayward
January 11, 2017 - Florence Margaret Wolfe
March 04, 2017 - Thomas Robert Foote
March 06, 2017 - Barbara Ann Greenough
March 11, 2017 - Verna Grace Eisener
March 28, 2017 - Madeline Edith Way
April 07, 2017 - Michael Phillip Parker
May 22, 2017 - Robert Clyde DeBaie
June 04, 2017 - David Sherman Inkpen
June 20, 2017 - Dorothy Pearl Piggott
July 25, 2017 - Ann Cheryl Mosher

Some "People" Statistics - 2017

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
Number of Households	270	263	262	260	265
Number of Persons	643	632	630	628	641
Membership, January 1 st	587	585	584	583	576
Received by Profession of Faith	0	1	0	1	0
Received by Transfer	5	7	1	2	0
Restored	0	0	0	0	0
Adjustment	0	0	0	0	0
Members Who Died	6	9	2	10	8
Members Who Transferred	1	0	0	0	0
Removed At Own Request	0	0	0	0	0
Membership, December 31 st	585	584	583	576	568
Resident Members	411	412	411	405	398
Non-Resident Members and/or Inactive	174	172	172	171	170
Baptism					
Children (12 and under)	10	8	5	8	1
Adult	1	0	0	0	0
Marriages	2	3	1	1	1
Funeral/Memorial Services	8	12	6	14	10

**Minutes
Annual Congregational Meeting
Grace United Church
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
February 26, 2017**

CALL TO ORDER

Martin Walker, Chair of the Unified Board, called the Annual Congregational Meeting to order at approximately 12:38 pm, on February 26, 2017. The meeting was held in the sanctuary 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 2016 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 Brian Hennen that Thelma Blaikie be approved as the acting secretary. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Moved by Ann Dent and seconded by Cindy Penney that the Agenda be approved as written. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2016 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

It was noted that in the Minutes of the 2016 Annual Congregational Meeting, on page 7, under Approval of the Annual Reports, that there was an error in the date "20154" which should have read "2015".

MOTION: Moved by Alice Baker and seconded by Sandra Foster that the Minutes of the 2016 Annual Congregational Meeting be approved with the above noted correction. Motion carried.

Minutes
Annual Congregational Meeting
Grace United Church
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
February 26, 2017

VOTING ON BECOMING AN AFFIRMING MINISTRY

MOTION: Moved by Brian Foster and seconded by Mark Hazen that members and adherents of Grace United Church may vote on the motions pertaining to 'Becoming an Affirming Ministry'. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORTS

It was noted that in the Choir Annual Report that Alice Baker's name was missed from the list of Sopranos.

MOTION: Moved by Susan Forsyth and seconded by Connie Mack that the Annual Reports for 2016, with the exception of the Becoming an Affirming Ministry (2014-2017) Report, the Treasurer's Report 2016 and the Budget 2017, be approved as circulated with above noted addition. Motion carried.

BECOMING AN AFFIRMING MINISTRY

MOTION: Moved by Jenny de Zoete and seconded by Brian Foster that Grace United Church become an Affirming Ministry within the United Church of Canada. Motion carried.

MOTION: Moved by Cindy Penney and seconded by Shirley Hazen that Grace United Church adopt the Grace United Affirming Ministry Vision and Mission Statement. Motion carried.

MOTION: Moved by Jenny de Zoete and seconded by Paul McKeown that in the Grace United Affirming Ministry Vision and Mission Statement that the term "family status" be revised to "family composition". Motion carried.

2016 TREASURER'S REPORT

Betty Robinson presented the Treasurer's Report. The detailed report is found on pages 44, 45 and 46 of the 2016 Annual Report.

MOTION: Moved by Betty Robinson and seconded by Jill Thompson that the Grace United Church Treasurer's Report for 2016 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

**Minutes
Annual Congregational Meeting
Grace United Church
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
February 26, 2017**

2017 BUDGET

The Budget was presented by Blair MacKinnon. The proposed budget is on pages 45 and 46 of the 2016 Annual Report.

MOTION: Moved by Blair MacKinnon and seconded by Brian Hennen that the recommendation for staff salaries, contracts, benefits and honorariums presented in the 2017 Budget be accepted. Motion carried.

MOTION: Moved by Blair MacKinnon and seconded by Mark Hazen that the Grace United Church 2017 Budget be approved as presented. Motion carried.

MISSION AND SERVICE OBJECTIVE FOR 2017

Mission and Service objective for 2017 was proposed as thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000.00).

MOTION: Moved by Blair MacKinnon and seconded by Alice Baker that the objective for the Mission and Service Fund for 2017 be thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000.00). Motion carried.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Committee consisted of Shirley Hazen, Vicki Harvey, Ann Mugford and Blair MacKinnon.

Blair MacKinnon presented the report of the Nominating Committee:

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

Chair: Shirley Hazen

Vice Chair: Pat Cleave

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

Barbara Henderson - Lay Representative to Presbytery

Brian Hull

Donna Hull

Pat Mallowney

Stephen Penney

Deborah Rowsell

**Minutes
Annual Congregational Meeting
Grace United Church
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
February 26, 2017**

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (continued)

3. Members of Unified Board reappointed to a new three year term:
 Brian Foster
 Robert Picco

4. Elected to Chair of Committee positions for a three year term:
 Ann Mugford - Chair of Pastoral Care and Outreach

5. Acknowledge the contributions of the following Board Members who are retiring from the Board
 Alice Baker
 Katherine Chuchryk
 Ann Dent (resigned in 2016)
 Brenda Picco
 Donna Sameoto
 Marsha Tinkham

6. Vacancies
 There is one (1) positions available as Lay Representatives to Presbytery.

Further nominations from the floor were called for three times.

MOTION: Moved by Blair MacKinnon and seconded by Jill Thompson that nominations cease.
Motion carried.

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

Blair MacKinnon thanked the other members of the Nominations Committee for their contribution in securing the nominees for membership on the Unified Board.

NEW BUSINESS

North Dartmouth Outreach Resource Centre (NDORC)

Grace United Church continues to be a big supporter of the centre.

**Minutes
Annual Congregational Meeting
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Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
February 26, 2017**

WORDS OF APPRECIATION

Martin Walker gave thanks to the staff, contract staff and students - Stephen Fram, Malcolm Bradley, Thelma Blaikie, Bill Busby, Mary Jo Harrison 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 vote of thanks was extended to everyone who helped to prepare and/or serve the delicious lunch to the congregation before the meeting.

TRANSFER OF POWER TO THE NEW CHAIR

Shirley Hazen assumed the Chair as the incoming Chair of the Unified Board.

Blair MacKinnon extended a thank you to Martin Walker for his contribution to Grace during his term as Chair of the Unified Board.

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 Susan Forsyth that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

Thelma Blaikie, Acting Secretary

Approved by: _____

Report of the Unified Board 2017

The Annual Report of the Unified Board offers an opportunity to provide an overall view of the past year and some reflection. The Committees' reports will provide additional details on 2017 activities. As preparation for writing this year's report, I revisited the last Unified Board annual report I wrote in 2012. I was struck by the vision at the start of the report that was from a preamble of a motion before a Special Congregational Meeting.

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.

This vision spoke of our desire of what we wanted Grace to be and at the time, as faithful stewards, we were considering how best to make this vision a reality. We were looking to the future and asking ourselves some tough questions about what we were called to do and be.

In the years since this vision statement was written much has happened as we journeyed toward that vision. I, along with other members of Grace attended a Fishing Tips Workshop by the Reverend John Pentland last spring. We came away with some ideas, as Stephen will attest, but we also had a sense that we were already undertaking many of the activities or directions suggested in the workshop.

This year also marked the Triennial Visit for Halifax Presbytery Pastoral Oversight Committee. We have not yet received the final report of the Committee but overall the Committee was very happy with the health and vibrancy of Grace.

The journey towards this vision is never ending but this year marked many important steps in the journey. One important step was officially becoming an Affirming Congregation in 2017. As part of this process we have a new vision and mission statement.

Vision and Mission Statement

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.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we journey together in faith as people, embracing every age, race, gender identify, sexual orientation, family composition, mental and physical ability, cultural background and socio-economic status in the life and work of Grace United Church.

Church is one of the few places left where people come together in a multi-generation environment to interact with one another. Our pews have people from newborns to 90+ in them. All are part of our family, and an important part of being a strong and vibrant congregation is that all must feel that there is an opportunity to participate in our congregational life. The reports of the Worship, Christian Development and Pastoral Care and Outreach, Special Initiatives and the "Breakfast Programs" and others will touch on the work they undertake to providing programming and support to congregational members.

Report of the Unified Board 2017 (continued)

In terms of reaching out to others, we have deepened our outreach to the differently abled community with Club Dartmouth, a partnership between us and The Club Inclusion. In 2017, there was a continuation of the weekly afternoon music program and the twice monthly arts and crafts night and we received funding that enabled us to continue the Inclusion Choir (Sing Together) on Monday nights where the whole community, both abled and differently abled join their voices together in joyous song. January 2018, saw the beginning of a pilot project which has a "full day" programming being conducted at Grace on Tuesdays with other full days being in Halifax.

Grace, in concert with Stairs Memorial United and Port Wallis United through Dartmouth United Futures began the pilot program of Spirit Café on the first (discussion night) and third (music and friendship) Tuesdays of the month at Ma Belle's Café. This hour long (5:30pm-6:30 pm) non-traditional spiritual event offers a chance for people to gather and share in community in a safe space to explore spiritual questions. This program is continuing in 2018. Grace also provides worship service at Parkland on the Lakes and Oakwood Terrace.

Grace, as part of its ministry, seeks to be an active part of the community about us. We are part of the start-up community by providing an introductory period of lower rents to help get the entrepreneur a better start. Again this year, we hosted election candidates (Dartmouth South) in a moderated question and answer period. We provide space free-of-charge to the Guiding and Scouting movement. This year marked the completion of our financial responsibility for the Al Gawabara family (Syrian refugee family) through the Heart of Dartmouth. We are pleased to report the family is well and the older son is employed.

Grace, through the Innovation and Implementation Committee (I2), provided a number of the Halifax Explosion themed events. Malcolm ably organized a Music at Grace series and our Special Initiatives Committee offered a number of events including opportunities to recycle and reuse through our flea market, book sales and Perennial sale events.

I would invite you to read the more in-depth reports of the Pastoral Care and Outreach, Innovation and Implementation, Dartmouth United Futures and others to get a sense of how Grace is reaching out beyond its pews to the larger community.

The 2012 vision spoke of a vibrant worship. Who can forget the excitement of the service to mark being accepted as an Affirming congregation. The Worship Committee and Choir reports can speak in greater detail of activities including the world premiere of a choral piece commissioned in honour of Malcolm Bradley, our well-loved Choir director and organist.

The Property Committee and its helpers over the intervening years have done an amazing job of seeing that the building is inviting, functional and accessible.

All of these activities are supported by the Finance, and Ministry and Personnel Committee activities that concentrate on the people and money aspects of the operations that are key to the smooth running of our programs and facilities.

The Board also has some "ad-hoc" committees. The AV Committee has been overseeing the phased-in approach of the new audiovisual system and with the congregation's support Phase I is complete and they are now exploring the next phase.

Report of the Unified Board 2017 (continued)

Another ad-hoc committee of the Board has been looking into issues with respect to communications and a report will be brought before the Annual Meeting that seeks to establish a Communication Committee as part of the Board structure.

This year, in addition to the ordinary business of "running the Church", the Unified Board also dealt with Remit 4 on Funding a New Model. The motion laid out the principles of the new funding model. The motion proposed a single assessment model (revenue based) to fund the national and regional levels of the Church. The national church would only spend what it received which has implications for staffing and service levels. This motion passed at Grace.

The United Church is in the midst of a transformation through a remit process. A remit is like a motion that must be passed by either a majority of Presbyteries (remits 5, 7, and 8) or a majority of both Presbyteries and congregation (remits 1-4, and 6) within a certain time frame. An abstention is counted as a no vote. If the remits are passed at this level, they go to General Council (meeting of over 300 commissioners) for final decision. Grace had dealt with remits 1-3 in 2016, and dealt with remit 6 in Feb 2018.

Remits on Three Council Model (1), Elimination of Transfer and Settlement (2), Office of Vocation (3) and Funding a New Model (4) were to be voted upon by June 30, 2017. They were passed by presbyteries and congregations. If passed by General Council (GC) 43, they will change the structure of the church. Remit 1 would eliminate presbyteries and conferences which would be replaced by regions. GC42 was recalled electronically to establish a Boundaries Commission of nine members that will determine the number and boundaries of the regions. An interim report had Grace in the region comprised of Nova Scotia and Bermuda. For the remits that are passed by GC43, they are expected to come into effect by January 1, 2019. Additional information is available at <https://www.gc42.ca/remits>

I have been heartened over the past year in the growth we have seen in our Sunday School and new people in our pews. I hope that our vision and the life of the Church resonates with what people are seeking and we shall all journey together in living out God's vision.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Hazen
Chair

Members of Unified Board 2017

Minister

Rev. Stephen Fram

Intern

Mary Jo Harrison (January to April)

Chair

Martin Walker (January to March)
Shirley Hazen (March to December)

Vice Chair

Shirley Hazen (January to March)
Pat Cleave (March to December)

Immediate Past Chair

Blair MacKinnon (January to March)
Martin Walker (March to December)

Clerk of Session

Andrew Paton

Treasurer

Lynn Loder

Envelope Steward

David Huestis

Worship Committee

Andrew Paton, Chair
Alice Baker (January to March)
James Connolly
Martin Walker

Christian Development Committee

Vicki Harvey, Chair
Ian Hayward
Mark Hazen

Pastoral Care / Outreach Committee

Ann Mugford, Chair
Donna Hull (March to December)
Patricia Mullowney (March to December)
Deborah Rowsell (March to December)
Donna Sameoto (January to March)

Ministry and Personnel Committee

Hugh Hall, Chair
Lorna Carter
Jenny de Zoete

Members of Unified Board 2017 (continued)

Finance Committee

Betty Robertson, Co-Chair
Blair MacKinnon, Co-Chair
Brian Hull (March to December)
Lynn Loder
Brenda Picco (January to March)

Property Committee

Darrell Blenus, Chair
Darrell Harvey
Robert Picco
Darrell Spencer

Innovation and Implementation Committee

Brian Foster Co-Chair
Karen Foster Co-Chair
David Foster
Brian Hennen
Paul McKeown
Stephen Penney (March to December)

Special Gift Fund Committee

Lynn Loder, Chair
Blair MacKinnon
Betty Robertson

Communication Advisor

Brian Foster

Lay Representatives to Presbytery

Mark Hazen
Barbara Henderson (March to December)
Cindy Penney

Members, Unified Board (Not on a Committee)

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

Worship Committee Annual Report 2017

The Worship Committee is responsible for matters associated with the worship service at Grace. This includes: recruiting readers for scripture at the Sunday service; prayers with worship leaders before the service; organizing and serving of communion; baptism and marriage policies and approvals; pulpit supply arrangements, assisting in music coordination; and decorating of the sanctuary for key seasonal events, such as Thanksgiving and Christmas. As well, we oversee the worship service for the Advent event and some other duties which were previously handled by the Grace United UCW prior to their disbanding.

The 2017 year began with the following Worship Committee members: Reverend Stephen Fram, Malcolm Bradley (Organist & Choir Director), Alice Baker, Jim Connolly, Ron Shaw, Martin Walker and Andrew Paton, Chair (and Clerk of Session). Mary Jo Harrison, our Intern, also participated on the committee until the end of her internship at Grace in the spring. As well the committee welcomed Dick Charlton following the Annual General Meeting.

The Worship Committee held ten regular meetings in 2017.

Grace United is blessed to have Reverend Stephen Fram continue as our Minister in 2017 and provide principle spiritual leadership during the worship service and otherwise. This leadership was enriched by Mary-Jo Harrison our ministerial Intern and April Hart our student. Mary-Jo participated weekly in the worship service and periodically was responsible for the sermon and April participated on a less frequent basis. Ron Shaw led the service on May 28th when Rev. Fram was away at Maritime Conference and Dick Charlton stepped in at short notice to lead a service in October when Rev. Fram was ill. Beginning in the fall, the Mission Statement for Grace United, developed in light of our becoming an Affirming Congregation, was recited by the congregation at the beginning of each Sunday service.

There were two special services during the year in which there were guest speakers: the Service of Recognition of Grace United becoming an Affirming Congregation (June 4th) at which Gabriel Exunga, a community activist, spoke; and the 164th Anniversary service of Grace United (November 19th) at which Rev. Susan MacAlpine-Gillis, former minister at Cole Harbour Woodside United Church and Adjunct Professor at Atlantic School of Theology (AST), was our guest preacher.

Christmas and Easter are key times in the church calendar and our worship services. In 2017 Christmas Eve fell on a Sunday. There was no regular morning service that day, but rather a late afternoon, children focused service, as well as a more traditional 7:00 pm service. At the evening service there was a special recognition of the Memory Tree and of those remembered via the lights and ornaments on that tree. A professional lighting technician, Richard Bonner, did special lighting of the sanctuary during those two services. On Easter Sunday, there was both an 'early riser' service at the ferry terminal as well as the regular 11:00 am service at Grace United.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion took place at six worship services in 2017. Three were in the Methodist style (congregation comes forward) and three in the Traditional style (congregation is served in the pews).

One child was baptized and welcomed into our Christian family at Grace in 2017. Children being baptized are given a children's bible, candle and a certificate of baptism. =

Worship Committee Annual Report 2017 (continued)

There was one wedding at Grace United which took place in October. This year, in light of becoming an Affirming Ministry, the wedding policy at Grace was modified to indicate that all gender combinations will be treated equitably.

Vital to the worship service at Grace United is music and hymn singing. Both the more traditional, Voices United as well as more complementary, More Voices were used in 2017. 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.

Bible Playshop, a scripture based drama involving congregation members, has continued to play a key role in Sunday services on a regular basis.

In 2017 Grace United continued to participate on a rotational basis with other local churches in services on Sunday afternoons at Oakwood seniors' complex in Woodside. As well, once a month on Wednesday afternoons, Grace provides a ministry of word and music at Parkland at the Lakes residential complex along Baker Drive, an area where numerous Grace United congregation members now live.

On behalf of the Worship Committee, I thank all those who contributed of their time and talent to make the worship service an important spiritual experience. As well I thank the other members of the Worship Committee for their dedicated service during the year. 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 2017

Director and Organist	Malcolm Bradley (since 1992)
Members as at December 2017	29 (includes some snow birds)
Executive	President Eleanor Hall
	Treasurer Chris Wolfe
	Librarian/VP Ian Fraser
	Secretary Connie Mack & Margi Hennen
	Social Susan Forsyth

Membership changes

We lost Scott McGaw this year due to career advancements and wish him all the best, and welcome Christine Millar, soprano, Jennifer Garvey, alto, and John Menzies, bass.

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.

Special Events / Services with choir

This year, on occasion of Malcolm's 25th anniversary (a two year celebration), the choir presented a special service on Sunday, February 5, 2017, with music by Canadian composer and internationally renowned choral conductor Dr. Mark Sirett. He conducted the choir for his Gaelic piece, Taladh Chrìosda, which the choir had already sung at Christmas 2016. The service was interspersed with relevant readings by Ron Shaw, a choir member.

The choir hosted a workshop on Friday, February 3 and Saturday, February 4, with Mark Sirett, who came for this occasion from Kingston, Ontario. There were about 120 singers from various church choirs of NS in attendance and it was a great success.

On November 12th, a very special Remembrance Day Concert was held in the afternoon to commemorate the Halifax Explosion Centennial. The choir had joined forces with the 36 Canadian Brigade Group (NS) Band under the leadership of Capt. Patrick Forde, CD, and Assistant Director of Music MWO Ruth Blackie, CD. Our connection to this wonderful band was through Heather Mayka (Kingston) and David Foster, both are members of the band and members of Grace Church. Our very own Shirley Cameron, soprano, did a most stunning solo part in 'We Rise Again'.

Grace United Church Choir Annual Report 2017 (continued)

November 19th - Grace Church celebrated its 164th anniversary with a commissioned choral piece by the choir from Mark Sirett, in honor of Malcolm's 25th anniversary at Grace United Church. He made a beautiful arrangement of 'Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Sky', with words by Charles Wesley and was very much enjoyed by the congregation.

On the third Sunday in Advent, the service at Grace is usually one of lessons and carols, but Malcolm had chosen a very lovely Christmas Cantata this year 'Sing Joy to all the World' by Lloyd Larson. It is a collection of mostly familiar Christmas music with readings from the Christmas story in newer versions. The readers were June and Richard Charlton of Grace.

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

Guest musicians this year for the special events and at Christmas were:

Feb 5 - Dr. Mark Sirett, Cynthia Davies, piano; Debbie Miles, violin; Peter Watson, drum; Joe Murphy, Bryan Crocker, and Heather Mayka, all in choir.

Nov 12 - Adam Johnson, piano; Bob Barrie and Connor Grey in choir.

Nov 19 - Connor Grey and Cynthia Davies

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 (in no particular order):

Sopranos

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

Altos

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

Tenors

Chris Wolfe
Hugh Hall
Douglas Jones
David Fraser
Andrew Paton

Basses

Ian Fraser
Ron Shaw
John Menzies
Brian Hennen

Choir socials

A choir gathering was held after the November 12 concert at Susan Forsyth's home with a most delicious pot luck. Many thanks to Susan and her husband for hosting us. The usual season-end party in June was postponed to late fall, due to the funeral of David Inkpen, a long time member of Grace, at the end of June, which the choir attended.

Grace United Church Choir Annual Report 2017 (continued)

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 2017**

Balance Forwarded January 1, 2017 **\$ 1,731.23**

Receipts

Dues	\$ 190.00
Donations	\$ 75.00
Donation - Malcolm's 25th Celebration	\$ 4,780.00
February Workshop Registration	\$ 1,150.00
 Total	 <u><u>\$ 6,195.00</u></u>

Disbursements

"Mark Sirrett Weekend"	
M. Sirrett	\$ 1,500.00
C. Davis	\$ 550.00
D. Miles	\$ 100.00
P. Watson	\$ 75.00
Hotel Accommodations (Sirrett)	\$ 493.37
Checked Luggage (Sirrett)	\$ 56.50
Baked goods for Break	\$ 60.00
Commissioning Fee	\$ 1,500.00
 Nova Scotia Choral Fed Membership	 \$ 75.00
Choir Gowns Cleaning	\$ 634.80
White Gift donation	\$ 50.00
 Total	 <u><u>\$ 5,094.67</u></u>

Closing Balance December 31, 2017 **\$ 2,831.56**

Respectfully submitted:
Christopher Wolfe, Treasurer
January 9, 2018

Pastoral Care and Outreach Annual Report 2017

Members of the Pastoral Care and Outreach Committee:

Rev. Stephen Fram, Betty Lou Suddard, Eleanor Hall, Mary Walker, Donna Hull, Debbie Rowsell, Pat MULLOWNEY and Ann Mugford (Chair)

Our Committee accepted the resignation of Donna Sameoto. We want to express our appreciation for her contribution to the work of PC&O Committee for the last five years.

We welcomed new members - Donna Hull, Pat MULLOWNEY and Debbie Rowsell to our Committee.

Following is a summary of our efforts over the past year, to support our congregation (**Pastoral Care**) and to '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:

Annual Report from Pastoral Visitor's Committee:

The Pastoral Visitor's Committee consists of 10 volunteer visitors who keep in contact with "shut in" members of the Grace congregation. This contact may be in the form of a visit, a phone call, or a card sent by mail. The nature of the contact varies accordingly to the needs of each individual and visitor. Although the number varies throughout the year, there were about 28 members receiving regular contact in 2017.

Visitors met four times in 2017 and had guest speakers at three of our meetings. These included:

1. *March 15 - Mary Jo Harrison - speaking on her visiting experiences*
2. *May 23 - Tisha White - Northwood "In Touch" program*
3. *Oct. 31 - Mike Myette - "211" Program*

The Poinsettia Program was carried out again in 2017 with 30 poinsettias (or substitute gift) being delivered to members of the Grace community.

Pauline Murdock continues to manage the Greeting Card Program, sending Sympathy, Get Well and Birthday Cards as needed. In 2017, a total of 42 cards were sent; Sympathy - 13; Get Well- 16 and Birthday Cards to those 90 years and over- 13.

- **Coffee Fellowship** is coordinated by June Charlton. We appreciate her commitment to this ministry. June has submitted the following report:

Coffee Fellowship 2017:

The Sunday after-service Coffee Fellowship had another excellent year, thanks to all the volunteers who help out each Sunday.

During the year the Pastoral Care Committee arranged volunteers for the first Sunday of the month, the second Sunday was organized by myself, the Choir members volunteered for the third Sunday, Terry Collett did all the forth Sundays and Mary and Martin Walker the

Pastoral Care and Outreach Annual Report 2017 (Continued)

fifth Sundays. Many thanks to these regular volunteers, and to those who took a turn during the year.

If you would like to add your name to a reserve list of volunteers please let Ann Mugford or June Charlton know.

Serving at the Coffee time on Sundays is a special way to meet the people of our congregation. Step by step directions are posted up in the kitchen, and assistance is always at hand for new helpers. Volunteers are asked to bring cookies and a carton of milk and members of the congregation often supply extra cookies which are always appreciated.

For 2018, the Choir's Coffee date will be the second Sunday and I shall organize the third.

- **Sunday Greeters** has been coordinated by Eleanor Hall. She has added new volunteers to her list and is pleased with the response from our congregation,
- **The Ambassador** program has had many coordinators during the past year. Donna Sameoto, Eleanor Hall and Cliff Muise each donated their energies to recruiting volunteers for Sunday services until Donna Hull took on the leadership in October. As a result of the training session offered in early May, we have a condensed 'job description' to guide those who volunteer. Donna reported that she has recruited new members to her list of volunteers.
- **Receptions for Funerals** were coordinated by Mary Walker. She has a dedicated group of volunteers she can rely on to assist her.

Outreach

- **Tree of Warmth [formerly The Mitten Tree]** - In December, our congregation decorated a tree with items that bring warmth to those in need. In addition to the need for socks, gloves/mittens and toques, there was a special request for male and female underwear. This year the tree was adorned with 112 pairs of socks, 47 pairs of underwear, 55 pairs of gloves/mittens, 47 hats/toques and 18 scarves. The items were divided and delivered to Margaret's House, Brunswick Mission, Out of the Cold Program [St Matthews United Church] and Stepping Stone. Helen Hartley and Ann Mugford coordinated this project.
- **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 2017, our PC&O Committee recommended the following donations that were approved by our Board:

Adsum House	\$200
Alice Housing	\$100
Atlantic School of Theology	\$300
Benevolent Fund	\$400
Byrony House	\$100
Camp Kidston	\$1,000
Coverdale	\$100
Dal Chaplain	\$300
Food for Phoenix	\$100

Pastoral Care and Outreach Annual Report 2017 (Continued)

North Dartmouth Outreach Resource Centre	\$500
Phoenix House	\$100
Stepping Stone	\$200
Laing House	\$100

- **Coverdale & Alice Housing** - During the spring and fall, our congregation had the opportunity to donate personal care items to Alice Housing and Coverdale. It was our way to contribute to those who need this support and to those who provide it. Pat Mullowney coordinated these projects.
- **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 her report:

Christian Relief and Development Coalition

The Coalition, consisting of representatives from fifteen churches of various faiths in Dartmouth, 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.

Through regular Sunday giving and designated donations, Grace makes financial donations to assist the operation of Margaret's House. In 2017, those donations amounted to \$1,198.10

Another special part of our commitment to F.O.O.D. is the preparation of meals, one day a month, for 100 guests of Margaret's House. Over 30 members of our congregation (organized in groups of 10 and, on a rotational schedule) contribute to this very important need. 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 \$30,000. Again, our Grace congregation was very supportive by donating baked goods and auction items, 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. In 2017, a total of 38,840 meals were served to guests at Margaret's House.

In closing, our committee would like to express sincere appreciation to our Grace family, for responding so generously to our many and varied requests. We are truly grateful. Also we welcome any suggestions for future projects.

To each committee member, I would like to express gratitude for your support, leadership and commitment to all our projects.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Mugford, Chair

Ministry and Personnel Committee Annual Report 2017

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 the Grace Minister, Secretary, Organist/Choir Director and Caretaker. Also, M&P is to provide Finance with annual guidance on possible changes to salaries and other expenses related to permanent staff and contracted staff. At the 2017 Grace Church Annual Meeting, Hugh Hall was confirmed as the continuing M&P Committee Chair. Continuing members of the committee are Jenny de Zoete, Cathy Spencer and Lorna Carter.

In mid-January 2017, following M&P meetings, M&P recommendations for salary and related remuneration for all church personnel (staff and contractors) were presented to the Finance Committee in anticipation of the budget for the coming year. Position descriptions/contracts were revised and updated following decisions of the Unified Board at the 2017 Annual Meeting. Following decisions by the Unified Board, M&P implemented the Grace Church "Affirming Ministry Vision and Mission Statement and Action Plan" by incorporating the Mission Statement into all position descriptions for staff and contractors.

The M&P Committee met in early March to plan the performance reviews for staff and contractors and to consider related personnel matters. Performance reviews were completed during meetings in early June. M&P Committee members completed the 2016 draft of the position description for the Minister at Grace Church in consultation with the Minister and it became the basis for the 2017 Performance Review. Other meetings with staff and contractors were held periodically throughout the year as needed.

During the fall there were several meetings with Property Committee representatives to resolve matters associated with the cleaning responsibilities of kitchen renters and the obligations of Grace Church to the kitchen renters. As a result, the hours of work for the Caretaker were modified to increase hours of work. Subsequently, time to be spent on the kitchenette (upper hall kitchen) was included and the Caretaker contract for the remainder of the May 2017 to May 2018 term will be modified and a revised contract for May 2018 to May 2019 will be prepared during early 2018 to reflect any further changes associated with Caretaker duties.

M&P continued to be represented at monthly meetings of the Unified Board and to provide monthly reports, where appropriate.

Respectfully written and submitted,

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

Innovation & Implementation Committee (I-Squared) Annual Report 2017

The committee met regularly during 2017 and included: Brian and Karen Foster (co-chairs), Rhonda Dixon, David Foster, Paul McKeown, Stephen Fram, Stephen Penney and Brian Hennen.

We completed three major initiatives:

1. Memorial Nocturne installation.
2. Concert with 36th Canadian Brigade Group to acknowledge the centennial of World War 1.
3. Film screening - Halifax Explosion films - and second run of Nocturne installation.

All three of these initiatives were spearheaded by David and Brian Foster but were successful because of volunteer efforts from so many at Grace.

The committee continues to support the development of inclusive programming and space at Grace, spearheaded by Brian Hennen.

The committee anticipates two main foci to start 2018. The first is a repurposing of the Heart of Dartmouth Refugee Sponsorship Group to meet new community needs. The second is providing feedback on some proposals from the A/V Team.

I-Squared, with input from the whole committee, has decided to move to a quarterly meeting schedule instead of monthly, with any spillover work completed over email and at ad hoc meetings in between.

Finally, co-chairs Brian and Karen Foster acknowledge that they have served as chairs for over three years. New blood would be welcomed.

Prepared by:

Karen Foster

Property Committee Annual Report 2017

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.

The following projects were completed through individual efforts and work group gatherings:

- New center light in sanctuary
- Masonry work was completed for access ramp and lower brick work and caulking around perimeter
- Roof area over office entrance, Ochterloney Street was sealed after a leak penetrated the interior ceiling
- Alarm system repaired
- Filed final papers for the \$6,500.00 from HRM used for the washroom upgrades
- Lower hall floor cleaned and waxed
- Updated dehumidifiers in lower hall areas
- Ochterloney Street (stained glass window exterior frames will be caulked and painted early June)
- Replaced furnace filters
- Checked all emergency lighting and replaced batteries/ bulbs
- Reset timers for winter season
- Took 30 old paint cans to recycling
- Cleaned property storage room
- Repaired nosing on balcony stairs
- Added small rack in office
- Snow removal planned for winter 2018
- Submitted proposal for new refrigerating unit
- Fire Alarm panel upgraded
- Blinds for church office
- File cabinet replacement office
- Repaired front row Pews and hymn book rack in balcony pew
- Stored various equipment away
- Investigated certain roof areas for leaks or deterioration

Forward planning from work group:

- Detailed the areas of the church that will require wall repair and painting during the summer break of 2018. We will be tendering for quotes in the near future.
- Kitchen to be painted during the summer break. We will be coordinating with the renters during this period, as the kitchen will have to be closed for a short period of time.
- Planned painting and updated lighting of an vacant area next to the file storage along with the file room floor being painted.
- **Roof repair:**
- There was minimal damage during the recent storms and we have asked our roofing company to repair any areas that were affected.

Property Committee Annual Report 2017 (continued)

- **Outside sign**
- Requested sign company to provide an alternative background lighting process in the sign and repair leaks that were causing deterioration at the bulb connections.

- **Furnace repair**
- A motor was replaced on the sanctuary furnace and for safety purposes, we have upgraded the disconnect switches on each furnace. There were loose and worn connections.

- **Kitchenette - Upper Hall**
- New refrigerator unit arriving in February.

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

Respectively submitted on behalf of the Property Group: Darrell Harvey, Bob Picco, Darrell Spencer, Martin Walker, Dale Knox, Ian Fraser

D. W. Blenus

Darrell Blenus
Property Chair

Board of Trustees Annual Report 2017

During the calendar year 2017 the Trustees of Grace United Church were not called upon to exercise any official duties related to the maintenance, acquisition or disposal of any assets of the Church. Through their activities on other Grace Committees the Trustees remain informed of matters related to the 'real property' of the church.

The current members of the Board of Trustees wish to posthumously acknowledge the life long dedication of Dave Inkpen to Grace United Church and all his efforts as a 'plus 25 year' member of the Board of Trustees.

List of Trustees:

Susan Forsyth

Darrell Harvey

Blair MacKinnon

Darrell Spencer

Prepared by:

Darrell Spencer, Chairperson of Trustees

2018-01-31

5th Dartmouth Beaver Colony and Cub Pack Annual Report 2017

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 \$350.00 for our group. The Beavers participated in an overnight camp in December with Cubs at Camp Harris and visited the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic. Currently we have 14 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, badgework and play a few games. We went to Cuboree at Camp Harris and Sunken Lake Camp outside of Wolfville in the Spring of 2016. We also had a overnight camp at the Department of Natural Resources Camp in Chaswood in October and a camp with Beavers at Camp Harris in December. We participated in Apple Day with the Beavers in October.

Thank you to all of our Scouters and volunteers 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

Men's Breakfast Club Annual Report 2017

The Grace United Men's Breakfast Club once again scheduled eight Sunday morning breakfasts in 2017, 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 so early Sunday morning Fellowship 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 a speaker, and finally close with questions, appreciations, updates and then benediction around 9:15 am.

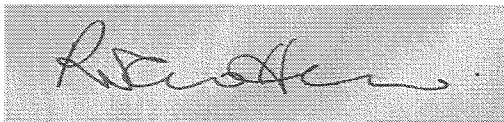
In 2017 our Guest Speakers have included the following:

January 15 th	April Hart	Student at Grace: Story so far
February 19 th	Gerry Leet	Director: City Center Ministry
March 19 th	John Burton	Director of Boys and Girls Club
April 9 th	Debbie Rowsell	Acting School Principle: Citadel High
May 21 st	Dave Inkpen	Reflections on Church and Life
October 15 th	Sara Napier	CEO Halifax United Way
November 19 th	Mark Hazen	River trip from Prague to Berlin
December 17 th	Malcolm Bradley	Christmas Carols around the piano.

Already we have no doubt 2018 will be another successful year. And we remind all men to make careful note of the upcoming breakfast dates given in the Grace Bulletin, or on the Grace website, Face Book or on the sign up sheet at the back of the church.

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 finest, 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 2017

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 9th we enjoyed our closing Banquet before our summer break. This was held at Mic Mac Bar and Grill, Waverley Road, Dartmouth, 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 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Miller

AV Committee Annual Report 2017

1. The AV committee and operating team has 8-10 members who set up the system, operate the AV booth for each service (or event), put equipment away post service, and post-process for the internet ministries.
2. The Memorial Fund loan for the first phase of the AV renewal project has been paid back.
3. The implemented system is providing good sound in the sanctuary and is an asset in terms of increasing the usage of the space - by Grace and others.
4. Minister's message and choir anthems are post produced for publishing on the internet. This can take a while in some cases due to the time required to process and gain permission from the worship team.
5. The AV team continues to experiment with systems to improve the quality of the sound and recorded video. In August, we had a day long training session with a professional sound technician.
6. As the original proposal from 2015 had three phases the AV committee is now reviewing the congregational requirements with respect to current capability to determine what capabilities should be in a revised phase two based upon what has been learned over the past three years.

Respectively submitted

Mark Hazen
Darrell Harvey

Social Media

Social media is an important way to connect 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 its website, Facebook, a YouTube channel and Twitter. Many of these platforms have analytics attached so these report will provide some information that we are able to access.

Grace also has a sign which is used to advertise events, provide information as well as pithy, thought provoking comments. In 2017, it was the interaction of the sign and media that provided a national presence for Grace.

Sometimes it is not what was planned in the head but is spontaneous from the heart which has the greatest response. Malcolm Bradley, being moved by the shooting in the mosque in Quebec changed the sign that morning to read "We preach love and respect for all. Today we are Muslim." The picture of our sign showed up in social media through Haligionia.ca but also was part of a CBC article "These Canadian acts of kindness after mosque attack may restore your faith in humanity". Our facebook post which linked to that article was viewed by 1,543 people, getting 114 likes/love.

Website (www.gracedartmouth.ca),

The Website 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. There are other "pages" that the visitor can go to for additional information (staff, history, events, etc.)

We had a 1.2 per cent increase in the number of unique visitors in 2017 increasing to 3,514 different visitors. Some of our visitors came to our site more than once to result in 4,676 visits, up 3.4% from the previous year. The most visited part of our website at 51 per cent of pages viewed was our home page.

Just over 50 per cent of our visitors came directly to our website while 45 per cent searched, mostly using google. As to be expected most of our visits came from Nova Scotia (3,121) but we get international visitors from such places as USA (320), China (19), and Russia (14).

Facebook (Grace United Church or [gracedartmouth](https://www.facebook.com/gracedartmouth))

The Church's Facebook site offers a more interactive experience. 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. There is usually one post daily often with a picture and a regular Throwback Thursday post. It can also sponsor or advertise a post or event to heighten profile in the area.

In 2017 we added another 69 followers of our Facebook to have 230 as of January 1, 2018. Our fans are evenly spread out in age from 25 onward, with 68 per cent being female. There are 173 in the Metro area, 43 elsewhere in Canada and then some more exotic locales like Uganda, Nepal and Thailand. The "popularity" of individual posts vary from 40 to nearly 2,000. Over the course of the year, our daily average was 163 people who saw any posts by our page or about our page, which is about 30 higher than the previous year. We have become more deliberate about creating Facebook Events after encountering people who had learned of our church events by searching through facebook for what was going on in the area.

Social Media (continued)

You Tube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/user/gracedartmouth/videos>)

Grace has its own You Tube Channel on which it posts videos of sermons, drama, anthems and other special musical offerings. The channel itself has 36 subscribers with views ranging from 3-20 of sermons and approaching 200 for some of the very popular musical pieces.

Twitter (@gracedartmouth)

Most of our tweets are linked to our facebook postings and we have 141 followers.

Social media has other platforms besides these which we do not use. Our social media has been conducted on more of an ad hoc basis as it relies on a few key volunteers or "off the corner of Stephen's desk". To maintain our presence and keep it current can be time consuming. Our website could use a refresh as some information is not current.

Respectfully submitted

Shirley Hazen

Communications Committee Proposal

Background

Over the last 10+ years the need for a more formalized communications structure has been recognized. In that time period there have been 2 or 3 identified Advisors who have undertaken activities to support the Church in its efforts to communicate more effectively with its internal and external stakeholders.

In that same period there have been massive and rapid changes in communications technologies. Grace has attempted to adopt and utilize these technologies - although they have not been integrated well and often require significant expenditures of human resources (paid staff and volunteer) to sustain. There has also been relatively little use of metrics to assess the effectiveness of the communications channels being utilized.

Many of Grace's communications resources are deployed in a decentralized fashion and may be labour inefficient, ineffective or underutilized. Many of the Church's communications jobs have been picked up by volunteers, or staff members as extra duties on top of their existing workloads. The Congregation is thankful to them for all their efforts and hours of service; but a decentralized approach leads to a lack of prioritization of these tasks as well as lack of consistency in branding and presentation. There is also an emphasis on using existing communications media to support the needs of the status quo, often ignoring the potential for more effective use of our resources.

The bottom line - there is no single person, body or committee responsible for communications at Grace. This proposal has given consideration to this gap and proposes that a small standing committee of the Unified Board be struck to provide advice on, manage, or undertake, as required, the broad range of communications needed to support a congregation seeking to engage with its members, adherents and visitors as well as the local community.

Rationale

As laid out in the Communications Report, there is a need for improved channels of communication with the congregation, especially with regards to information about the activities undertaken by the Church and the activities at the Church. This would help provide important information for congregants to become more active in the life of the church. It would also help support the success of events at the Church. In addition, the outward presentation of the church to the community is very important, especially as a source of social advocacy and engagement with the community. Overall, a positive image presented by a Christian church can help change the dominant narrative of Christians as being anti-LGBT, anti-science and very concerned about the maintenance of its status.

The creation of a Communications Committee would provide a centralized body to resolve issues in church communications, to advance initiatives, to allow Grace to use its resources efficiently, and to communicate effectively with its internal and external stakeholders. Its work would help keep the congregation better informed, provide a consistent brand for Grace, present the church positively in the community, and help revitalize Grace's volunteer programs.

As part of an Affirming congregation, there would be a need for the Committee to give extra attention to providing multiple/alternative ways to access information about the church for people of every age, race, gender identity, sexual orientation, family composition, mental and physical ability and socio-economic status, as necessary.

Communications Committee Proposal (continued)

Mandate

The Committee would seek to inform, engage and motivate internal and external stakeholders of Grace about the broad mission of the church. The communications committee - as envisaged - would fulfill a multifaceted role. The Communications Committee will have responsibility for providing advice, resources, and/or services regarding both internal communication among church administration (staff, Board, committees, etc.) and congregants, as well as external communication between the church and the community.

The mandate of the communications committee would be:

- **To Advise** - It would be a resource to the Minister, staff, the Unified Board and its committees (formal or ad hoc) to assist them with:
 - communicating their message to their target audience(s).
 - evaluating existing communications practices and making recommendations for change (if needed).
- **To be a Resource base** - It would develop and maintain a "library" of communication related resources for use by Grace's staff and volunteers alike in their development of communications products.
- **To Serve (or to advise)** - It would be responsible, as requested, to:
 - review the content and facilitate the throughput of communication messages to the formal channels used by Grace (e.g. Public Service Announcements (PSAs) or paid advertising, external signage, website, email, social media, etc.).
 - Develop themselves or review (as appropriate) work of others destined for formal communications channels to ensure: brand consistency, accuracy, protection of privacy, copyright, etc.
 - Measure effectiveness of communications tools used, and to regularly assess the communications needs of Grace and develop (and maintain) a communications plan for the Congregation that is presented, reviewed and approved by the Unified Board annually.

Through its various roles, the committee would seek to ensure that the congregation is well aware/informed about:

- the organization of the church (both local and national),
- church programs and events,
- volunteer opportunities,
- community involvement, and
- encouraging / providing the means for the congregation (and others) to become involved in the life of the Church.

Structure & Budget

The communications committee is envisaged:

- To be a standing committee of the Unified Board, and to be included in the Plan of Organization of the Church.
- To have a Chairperson who reports to the Unified Board.
- Be composed of 3-5 members of the congregation or the local community.
- To have a budget needed to sustain the formal communications channels described in the annual communications plan.

This would replace the role of Communications Advisor in the Plan of Organization of the Board. Alternatively, the Chair could be known as that.

As with Chairs of Committees, the Chair would serve a three-year term and is not eligible to serve again as Chair until s/he has spent a year off the Committee.

Communications Committee Proposal (continued)

Be it moved that the Plan of Organization for the Unified Board be amended

- a) to add Communications Committee to the list of Main Committees;**
- b) to add a list of duties for the Communication Communications under Duties of the Main Committees that are from the mandate of the Grace United Church Communication Committee Proposal;**
- c) to add that the Membership of the Communications Committee be a Chairperson (also known as the Communications Advisor) who is a member of the Unified Board and an additional 3-5 members of the congregation or local community; and**
- d) to remove the Communications Advisor as a required member of the Innovation and Implementation Committee.**

Dartmouth United Futures (DUF) Annual Report 2017

Dartmouth United Futures (DUF) is a venue for collaboration and sharing between congregations of the United Church in Dartmouth, NS. The group meets quarterly rotating between the various congregations. In general, many of the members of DUF are at the Board Chair level. While currently few ministerial staff attend, they are encouraged to do so.

In 2017 we met as follows:

Date	Location	Program
March	Grace United	Initial Feedback on Spirit Café, AV info, Remits
June	Grace United	Review of Fishing Tips Symposium
September	Woodlawn	Discussion of AV info sharing and the new Church structure
December	Stairs Memorial	Review of Spirit Café, discussion of joint social media project

In 2017, DUF initiated a major project in the form of Spirit Café, supported by Stairs, Grace and Port Wallis this is a non-traditional spiritual gathering at a local café (Ma Belles) on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month. The 1st Tuesday is based around faith discussions, while the 3rd Tuesday is based around music. Attendance has ranged from 10-30, with the majority of attendees coming from the three congregations. However, it has also attracted a number of members of the public as well, depending on the subject of discussion. Spirit Café was established on a year trial basis, and following review at the Dec meeting it was decided to continue in 2018.

One of the main benefits of DUF has been the opportunity for senior members of boards to meet and exchange ideas. At every meeting there is an opportunity for each congregation to tell the others what their congregation has been doing and has planned for the next quarter. Other congregations have the opportunity to ask questions and some amazing discussions have resulted.

DUF is now looking, again, at opportunities to collaboratively use social media and internet organization to coordinate/advertise United Church activities in the Dartmouth area.

Respectfully submitted

Mark Hazen
Chair Dartmouth United Futures.

Presbytery / Maritime Conference Annual Report 2017

In 2017 Grace had three Presbytery representatives : Cindy Penny, Barbara Henderson 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 Barbara attended Maritime Conference in late May.

Late in the year Mr. Mac MacLeod 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. In 2017 Presbytery voted on the final two remits:

Remit 4: Funding a new Model (passed)

Remit 6: One Ministry (defeated)

The regular business of Presbytery has continued with it providing support to a wide range of local ministries. In particular through the revitalization of ministry fund there was a Presbytery wide symposium called "Fishing Tips". Four members of Grace attended with a number of ideas for changes to our worship developed and implemented.

Grace had 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.

Grace hosted one regular Presbytery meeting, and recently a special meeting to review the draft report from the National Boundaries commission on the geographic extent of the new regions that will replace Conferences.

Respectively submitted

Mark Hazen

Cindy Penney

Barbara Henderson

Grace Initiatives Committee Annual Report 2017

On behalf of the Grace Initiatives Committee I am happy to report to the congregation that we had a busy successful year. We had the following fund raisers:

Church Bulletin
Yoga
Ham Supper
Flea Market
Plant Sale
Lobster Supper
Fall Tea and Sale
Book Sale
Memory Tree

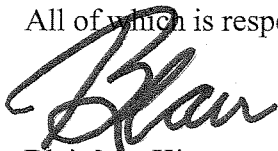
The net income for the Committee exceeded \$19,000.00, exceeding our budget of \$15,000.00 by \$4,000.00.

The following are the members of the Committee:

Alice Baker
Donna Hull
Blair MacKinnon
Lina MacKinnon
Jean MacQuarrie
Ann Mugford
Cliff Muise
Laura Muise
Marsha Tinkham
Martin Walker

None of our activities would be successful without the hard work of the Committee members and the support of the congregation. We are looking forward to repeating all of the fund raising activities and are continuing to discuss adding others, including a sea glass craft day, which is presently scheduled for the 24th of March from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Any fund raising ideas or suggestions are always welcome.

All of which is respectfully submitted,



Blair MacKinnon
Member of Grace Initiatives Committee

Special Gift Fund Annual Report 2017

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
Treasurer

Grace United Church
Memorial / Special Gift Fund
as at December 31, 2017

		\$\$
	Fund balance at Jan 1 /17	69,383.52
Receipts	Donations - general	12,672.44
	Donations for Organ Fund	210.00
	Dividends	547.20
	Unrealized loss on ManuLife shares at 12/31/17	-2,311.92
	Interest	334.32
	Total Receipts	11,452.04
Disbursements		
	Total Disbursements	0.00
	Net Surplus at Dec 31/17	11,452.04
	Fund balance at Dec 31/17	80,835.56
Assets		
	Bank - CIBC	6,719.93
	GIC	59,334.32
	Total Cash & GICs	66,054.25
684 shares	ManuLife (stock value at Dec 31, 2017)	14,268.24
	Total Cash at Dec 31/17	80,322.49
Due to / from affiliated Funds		
	Due from Grace Operating fund.	513.07
	Due from Ministry Bursary Fund	
	Total due from affiliated Funds	513.07
	Total Fund balance at Dec 31/17	80,835.56
Notes to Fund balances		
	Unrestricted Cash Funds and due from Grace general fund & Bursary	62,663.13
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	2,169.10
	Total restricted funds	3,391.12
	Total Cash Fund	66,054.25

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, 2017 to December 31, 2017**

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, 2017	1,780.06
Interest Income earned during the GIC term	1,755.94
Funds paid out to Ministry Candidate*	0.00
Balance of Funds available at Dec 31/17	<u>3,536.00</u>

CIBC GIC with an annual interest rate of 1.4% with a term of 1 year and 6 months maturing November 16, 2018	5,000.00
Reinvested accumulated interest	<u>3,536.00</u>
Principal amount invested	<u>8,536.00</u>

**Grace United Church
Organ Fund
January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017**

		\$\$
Organ fund started 1963	Fund Balance	Jan 1,2017 10,256.96
	Receipts - Donations	210.00 due from Grace Givings/Funerals in gen. Mem.fund acct
	interest income	0.00
	Disbursements	<u>0.00</u>
	Fund Balance	<u>10,466.96</u>
	Cash & GIC	
	Cash held in Mem.Fund	970.22
	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>10,466.96</u>

Report of Envelope Steward

Contributions of Grace United Church 2017

Month	Loose	Local *	M&S Fund	Building Fund	2017	2016
January	138	12297	2475	1969	16879	37862
February	326	10996	2434	1869	15625	16682
March	170	11380	2299	1817	15666	19425
April	371	14179	2525	1963	19038	17129
May	231	11220	2329	1826	15606	17619
June	135	11720	2253	1803	15911	15965
July	52	9166	2045	1704	12967	15738
August	202	11179	2191	1664	15236	12331
September	361	11145	2308	1855	15669	18271
October	253	13405	2534	2042	18234	18286
November	293	12689	2372	1839	17193	19900
December	1087	18696	2865	2233	24881	23754
Total	3619	148072	28630	22584	202905	232962

* includes Easter, Anniversary, Christmas and Initial.

Average Contributions

Year	Envelopes		Contributors without envelopes	PAR	Net	Receipts	Average
	Used	Not used					
2017	62	(3)	36	84	182	202905	1115
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

Report of Envelope Steward (continued)

Contribution Range	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Unused	(3)	(3)	(4)	(8)	(8)	(2)
0.01 - 200	45	23	40	50	30	39
200 - 400	19	26	26	20	23	24
400 - 600	13	16	13	15	20	19
600 - 800	15	11	12	10	12	10
800 - 1000	10	9	9	11	9	10
1000 - 1200	13	11	14	9	10	10
1200 - 1400	11	15	13	11	13	11
1400 - 1600	12	13	10	13	9	11
1600 - 1800	5	5	5	6	12	11
1800 - 2000	4	7	3	5	5	7
2000 +	33	33	34	32	28	27

Special Offerings & Other contributions

	Easter	Anniversary	Christmas	Food Bank & F.O.O.D	
2017	1310	2061	2415	2796	1664
2016	2975	1725	2066	2609	1488
2015	2210	2820	4680	2327	1645
2014	2014	1519	5010	3339	3058
2013	2020	2435	2625	2096	1871

Respectfully submitted,

David Huestis
Envelope Steward

Finance Committee Report Year ended December 31, 2017

The year 2017 was a financially successful one for Grace United Church. Although local budget offerings were down significantly from the prior year, the shortfall in offerings was compensated by increases in hall rental, kitchen rental, concerts as well as special initiatives revenue. With expenses close to budget, the year ended with net income of approximately \$7,400. The finance committee would like to thank all those who contributed to this successful year. In particular, the committee would like to thank Darrell Harvey for his commitment and vision regarding the kitchen rental program.

As we address our budget for 2018, our local givings must increase by approximately \$10,700 or 7% over 2017 in order to balance our budget and cover our projected expenses, assuming other revenues come in as planned.

The building fund was replenished this year and ended with a balance of approximately \$25,000. 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.

Lynn Loder, Treasurer

Blair MacKinnon, Co-chair Finance

Grace United Church

Comparative Balance Sheet

	<u>As at 12/31/17</u>	<u>As at 12/31/16</u>
ASSET		
Current Assets		
Bank - CIBC	29,763.04	25,163.15
Short-term investments	41,270.80	21,143.24
Due To/From Memorial Fund	-513.07	-3,413.63
Accounts Receivable	0.00	1,080.00
HST Recoverable	2,174.48	3,920.20
Prepaid Expenses - Insurance	<u>1,470.28</u>	<u>1,470.28</u>
Prepaid Expenses - Total	1,470.28	1,470.28
Total Current Assets	<u><u>74,165.53</u></u>	<u><u>49,363.24</u></u>
TOTAL ASSET	<u><u>74,165.53</u></u>	<u><u>49,363.24</u></u>
LIABILITY		
Current Liabilities		
Accts Payable - F.O.O.D.	1,198.10	1,009.92
Accounts Payable	4,420.54	2,144.91
Accrued liabilities	0.00	88.48
Deferred Revenue - Inclusive Choir	4,160.00	3,250.00
Deferred Rev - Kitchen Rental Expen	0.00	-782.37
Deferred Revenue - Internship	0.00	5,250.00
To/From A/V Sound System Fund	563.29	-2,838.89
Deferred Rev - Web Page Development	3,000.00	3,000.00
Deferred Revenue miscellaneous	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Deferred Revenue - Total	7,723.29	7,878.74
Receiver General Payable	1,417.30	1,383.76
Due to Mission & Service Fund	2,865.35	2,829.55
Due to/from Library Fund	1,017.52	1,109.02
Building Reserve Fund	18,434.25	16,185.75
Due to/from Building Fund	25,145.44	11,587.44
Due to United for Dartmouth Youth	0.00	395.51
Due to/fr Church Renew/partnership	3,000.00	3,000.00
Refugee Sponsorship Account	0.00	180.44
Total Current Liabilities	<u><u>65,221.79</u></u>	<u><u>47,793.52</u></u>
TOTAL LIABILITY	<u><u>65,221.79</u></u>	<u><u>47,793.52</u></u>
EQUITY		
Equity - General Fund		
Retained Surplus - General Fund	1,569.72	-2,464.27
Current Earnings	<u>7,374.02</u>	<u>4,033.99</u>
Total Equity - General Fund	<u><u>8,943.74</u></u>	<u><u>1,569.72</u></u>
TOTAL EQUITY	<u><u>8,943.74</u></u>	<u><u>1,569.72</u></u>
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	<u><u>74,165.53</u></u>	<u><u>49,363.24</u></u>

Generated On: 02/15/18

Grace United Church
Budget 2018, Actual and Budget 2017 and 2016

Revenue	2018 Budget	2017 Actual	2017 Budget	2016 Actual	2016 Budget
Local budget offering	162,615	151,838	162,880	169,549	165,459
Interest earned	100	128	100	105	
Hall rental	22,000	22,785	20,000	19,780	18,000
Kitchen Rental	16,000	16,376	7,500	7,749	2,000
Other revenue	2,000	2,178		373	
Funding- Intern(UCC and Mar Conf)		8,500	6,500	12,332	
Internship Donations		9,696	9,700	3,809	
Grace Initiatives Committee	16,000	21,745	15,000	14,999	15,000
Hfx Presbytery ,interest etc	750	720	1,000	1,175	
Concerts		2,260			
Gov't Grant- Halifax Explosion		9,500			
Subtotal Other Revenue	56,850	93,888	59,800	60,322	35,000
Total Revenue	219,465	245,726	222,680	229,871	200,459
Expenses & Disbursements					
Salaries & Honoraria					
Salary - Minister	58,015	57,158	57,158	56,313	56,313
Salary - Intern		11,136	11,137	11,136	
Contract - Organist	17,641	17,380	17,380	17,123	17,123
Salary - Secretary	15,621	15,390	15,390	15,163	15,163
Honorarium - Christian Edu.	500	500	500	250	500
Honorarium - Bookkeeper	1,850	1,800	1,800	1,700	1,700
Honoraria - Other	1,200	1,465	1,000	1,675	700
Honorarium- Envelop Sec	1,850	1,800	1,800	1,610	1,610
Honoraria- special music	500	495	500		
Contract - Janitor	13,082	12,017	11,912	11,736	11,736
Total Salaries & Honoraria	110,259	119,141	118,577	116,706	104,845
UC pension expense/ CPP/Other benefits	14,800	14,490	14,800	14,597	13,750
EI expense	1,700	1,536	2,200	2,241	1,736
Continuing education- minister	1,393	1,374	1,374	1,359	1,359
Professional development- organist	1,500	-	1,500	454	1,500
Subtotal payroll expenses	19,393	17,400	19,874	18,651	18,345
Total Payroll and Honoraria	129,652	136,541	138,451	135,357	123,190
Church Premises & Housing					
Housing Allow - Minister	20,000	18,500	18,500	17,000	17,000
Housing Allow - Intern		3,200	3,200	3,200	
Power	6,500	6,397	6,000	6,144	5,500
Water	1,300	1,222	1,200	1,106	1,000
Heating fuel	9,500	8,971	7,000	6,144	8,000
Repairs & Maintenance	7,500	8,282	6,000	6,734	6,000
Furniture & fixtures	3,500	2,800	1,200	3,034	1,200
Computer/software	1,500	2,201	1,500		1,550
Cleaning supplies & misc.	1,600	1,546	1,500	1,315	1,500
Total Church Prem.& Housing	51,400	53,119	46,100	44,677	41,750

Grace United Church
Budget 2018, Actual and Budget 2017 and 2016

	2018 Budget	2017 Actual	2017 Budget	2016 Actual	2016 Budget
Church Administration					
Travel Allowance - Minister	2,200	2,125	2,750	2,922	2,750
Travel Allowance - Intern		180	200	212	
Printing, postage, stationery	2,600	2,556	2,500	2,422	3,000
Telecom	3,500	3,405	3,400	3,306	3,200
Insurance	6,000	5,881	6,000	5,881	6,000
Bank charges & interest	1,500	1,459	1,500	1,382	1,500
Taxes - Hydrant	150	115	150	132	170
Halifax Presbytery	8,113	7,963	7,963	7,908	7,908
Total Church Administration	24,063	23,684	24,463	24,165	24,528
Church Activities					
Choir	750	550	750	616	750
Christian education	1,000	441	2,016	342	500
Worship	2,500	1,954	2,500	2,318	2,500
Coffee fellowship/ Pastoral Care	700	613	600	454	700
Website upgrade& maint	350		350	452	350
Grace Initiatives expenses		2,614			
Miscellaneous/concerts	200	105	200	199	
Long-range planning/ I ²	250	259	-	86	
Total Church Activities	5,750	6,536	6,416	4,467	4,800
Allocations & Discretionary					
Outreach	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
UC Observer		65		(11)	
Halifax Explosion Presentation		9,170			
Unified Board	1,000	1,731	750	812	750
Total Allocations & Discret.	4,500	14,466	4,250	4,301	4,250
Total Expenses before Reserve Fd	215,365	234,346	219,680	212,967	198,519
Allocation to Bldg Reserve	2,100	2,249	2,000	11,917	1,940
Allocation to Kitchen Reserve	2000	1757	1,000	952	-
Total Expenses & Allocations	219,465	238,352	222,680	225,836	200,459
Net Income (Deficiency)	-	7,374	-	4,035	-
M&S Objective	30,000	28,651	30,000		

Statement of Building Fund
Jan1, 2017 to Dec 31, 2017

Balance Jan 1, 2017	11,587
Donations Received	22,606
Disbursements	<u>-9,048</u>
Balance Dec 31, 2017	<u>25,145</u>

Audit Committee Report

We have audited the general operations balance sheet of Grace United Church as of December 31, 2017, 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,

Ian Fraser
Connie Mack