

GRACE UNITED CHURCH

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



Minister - Rev. Stephen Fram

Organist and Choir Director - Malcolm Bradley

Chair, Unified Board - Patricia Cleave

Office Administrator - Thelma Blaikie

Grace United Church Annual Report 2019

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Minister's Report 2019

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.

I invite you to read through this annual report and you will get a sense of our shared work and ministry in 2019. And may this story and the story that you find behind the printed words inspire and guide our common life as we seek to be the church in this time and place.

Recently I have been thinking about the image of our Church as being a community of faith that is invited to be immersed in the Grace and love of God. This immersion continues to be transformative and life giving. It is transformative to sit with the Inclusion Choir on Monday's; to listen to the many other opportunities for the ministry of music that takes place in this building; to work with other churches in the area on Adult Education projects and Spirit Café events. The list of these opportunities is long and impressive. Please read about them in the pages that follow.

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 effective and successful.

To our Supervised Field Student from AST (January 2019 to April, 2019), Heather Cronhelm; our music director, Malcolm Bradley; our administrative assistant, Thelma Blaikie; and our caretaker, Bill Busby; our rental managers, Dale Wilson (January 2019 to August 2019), Bob Tobin, (October 2019 to present) I say thank you for your ministry and the opportunity to minister with you.

Yours in Christ's Service,

Rev. Stephen Fram

Baptisms

January 13, 2019 - Michelle Diane Brenton

Marriages

September 28, 2019 - John Stuart Marsh and Nicole Lynn Hansom

Deaths / Funerals / Memorial / Committal Services

March 11, 2017 - Verna Grace Eisener
January 31, 2019 - James William Eisener
February 13, 2019 - Sheila Eulalie Wiseman
February 14, 2019 - Carl Ferguson Atkins
March 14, 2019 - Edward James Clarke
March 20, 2019 - Norman Hugh Fergusson
June 06, 2019 - John MacDonald Penney
June 18, 2019 - Robert Manning Benjamin
July 10, 2019 - Catherine Isobel Ackman
July 13, 2019 - Rosemarie Poeplau
August 06, 2019 - Elizabeth Frances McKeown
October 05, 2019 - Christine Ann Graves
December 12, 2019 - Sharon Louise Ryman

Some "People" Statistics - 2019

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
Number of Households	262	260	265	263	259
Number of Persons	630	628	641	637	632
Membership, January 1 st	584	583	576	568	563
Received by Profession of Faith	0	1	0	1	1
Received by Transfer	1	2	0	2	0
Restored	0	0	0	0	0
Adjustment	0	0	0	0	0
Members Who Died	2	10	8	7	6
Members Who Transferred	0	0	0	1	0
Removed At Own Request	0	0	0	0	0
Membership, December 31 st	583	576	568	563	558
Resident Members	411	405	398	393	388
Non-Resident Members and/or Inactive	172	171	170	170	170
Baptism					
Children (12 and under)	5	8	1	7	0
Adult	0	0	0	0	1
Marriages	1	1	1	3	1
Funeral/Memorial Services	6	14	10	12	13

**Minutes
Annual Congregational Meeting
Grace United Church
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
March 03, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER

Shirley Hazen, Chair of the Unified Board, called the Annual Congregational Meeting to order at approximately 12:35 pm, on March 03, 2019. 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 2018 as he read out each of their names. Following a moment of silence, he closed in prayer.

APPROVAL OF THE ACTING SECRETARY

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Moved by Dick Charlton and seconded by Pat Cleave that the Agenda be approved as written. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2018 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

MOTION: Moved by Alice Baker and seconded by Jill Thompson that the Minutes of the 2018 Annual Congregational Meeting be approved as circulated. Motion carried.

**Minutes
Annual Congregational Meeting
Grace United Church
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
March 03, 2019**

APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL REPORTS

MOTION: Moved by Jenny de Zoete and seconded by Pat Cleave that the Annual Reports for 2018, with the exception of the Treasurer's Report 2018 and the Budget 2019, be approved as circulated. Motion carried.

2018 TREASURER'S REPORT

Lynn Loder presented the Treasurer's Report. The detailed report is found on pages 41, 42 and 43 of the 2018 Annual Report.

MOTION: Moved by Lynn Loder and seconded by Martin Walker that the Grace United Church Treasurer's Report for 2018 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

2019 BUDGET

The Budget was presented by Lynn Loder. The proposed budget is on pages 42 and 43 of the 2018 Annual Report.

There was discussion on the new structure of the United Church of Canada and on the payment process to the United Church of Canada.

MOTION: Moved by Lynn Loder and seconded by Darrell Blenus that the recommendation for staff salaries, contracts, benefits and honorariums presented in the 2019 Budget be accepted. Motion carried.

MOTION: Moved by Lynn Loder and seconded by Blair MacKinnon that the Grace United Church 2019 Budget be approved as presented. Motion carried.

MISSION AND SERVICE OBJECTIVE FOR 2019

Mission and Service objective for 2019 was proposed as twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00).

MOTION: Moved by Lynn Loder and seconded by Mark Hazen that the objective for the Mission and Service Fund for 2019 be twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00). Motion carried

Minutes
Annual Congregational Meeting
Grace United Church
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
March 03, 2019

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominations Committee consisted of: Martin Walker (Chair), Hugh Hall, Vicki Harvey, Blair MacKinnon and Ann Mugford

Martin Walker presented the report of the Nominating Committee:

1. The position of Chair and Vice Chair are elected annually by the congregation.
Chair: Pat Cleave
Vice Chair: Mark Hazen
2. New members to the Unified Board for a three (3) year term are:
Jennifer Eames
Phillip Fraser
Carol Nielsen
Ron Shaw
Jill Thompson
3. Members of Unified Board reappointed to a new three (3) year term:
Darrell Blenus
Lorna Carter
Vicki Harvey
Lynn Loder
Blair MacKinnon
Ann Mugford
Andrew Paton
Martin Walker
4. Members of Unified Board reappointed for an one (1) year term:
Jenny de Zoete
5. Elected to Chair of Committee positions for a three (3) year term:
Lorna Carter - Chair, Ministry and Personnel Committee
Lynn Loder - Treasurer
Blair MacKinnon - Co-Chair, Finance Committee
Ann Mugford - Chair, Pastoral Care Outreach Committee
Andrew Paton - Chair, Worship Committee and Clerk of Session
Robert Picco - Chair, Property Committee

**Minutes
Annual Congregational Meeting
Grace United Church
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
March 03, 2019**

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (continued)

6. Appointment as Lay Representatives of Grace United Church to Region 15:
Barbara Henderson
Cindy Penney

7. Acknowledge the contributions of the following Board Members who are retiring from the Board
Alice Baker
Darrell Harvey
Hugh Hall
Darrell Spencer

8. Vacancies
There are two (2) positions available as Lay Representatives to Region 15.

Shirley Hazen, Chair called for further nominations from the floor three (3) times.

MOTION: Moved by Darrell Harvey and seconded by Ann Dent that nominations cease. Motion carried.

MOTION: Moved by Martin Walker and seconded by Andrew Paton that we accept the report of the Nominating Committee. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

NORTH DARTMOUTH OUTREACH RESOURCE CENTRE (NDORC)

Grace United Church continues to support the centre.

Several members of the congregation volunteer on a regular basis at the Foodbank.

Lynn Loder is the Treasurer.

Minutes
Annual Congregational Meeting
Grace United Church
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
March 03, 2019

WORDS OF APPRECIATION

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

Shirley Hazen gave thanks to the staff, contract staff and student - Stephen Fram, Malcolm Bradley, Thelma Blaikie, Bill Busby and Heather Cronhelm.

A Thank You to Frances Wallace for her role in Bookkeeping, to Harry Wallace for his role in Payroll, to Martin Walker for his role as Envelope Steward, and to Lynn Loder for her role as Treasurer. Committee Chairs and members of committees were thanked for their contributions.

TRANSFER OF POWER TO THE NEW CHAIR

Pat Cleave assumed the Chair as the incoming Chair of the Unified Board.

Blair MacKinnon extended a thank you to Shirley Hazen for her contribution to Grace during her 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 Shirley Hazen that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

Thelma Blaikie, Acting Secretary

Approved by: _____

Unified Board Annual Report 2019

When I was approached to become the Vice-Chair of the Unified Board for 2018 and subsequently Chair in 2019, I agreed knowing that I would be supported by many members of the congregation and our staff, particularly the Rev. Stephen Fram and our secretary Thelma Blaikie. Over this past year, I have had my assumptions confirmed. Grace United Church is successful because of the number of people who are willing to 'step up'.

In 2018, all congregations in the United Church of Canada were asked to consider proposed changes to the national church structure. Many of these were approved. One change was the elimination of Presbyteries that had been an important venue for sharing among congregations. In Dartmouth, we have a group, United Churches for Dartmouth, which brings together the United Churches in Dartmouth for sharing and support. Grace United, under Mark Hazen's leadership, has been the key driving force behind this group.

In the last few years, the use of our building has grown remarkably. Opening our building to the community has important financial implications from rentals. However, providing reasonably priced space to entrepreneurs is also part of our mission to be a positive force in Dartmouth. In addition to renters, community groups such as cubs and guide groups, the Club and the Inclusion Choir and a wide variety of Grace programs meet in the building. In 2019, recognizing that the work involved in coordinating the many users of our building, the Board approved the hiring of a Rental Manager, Bob Tobin. The Unified Board spent time this Fall identifying principles and procedures to guide the Rental Manager in his work.

Another major accomplishment this year was the refugee sponsorship of a young woman from Uganda, Alice Nakalyango. Heart of Dartmouth, the sponsoring group, involves people from a number of Dartmouth churches and the Dartmouth community with leadership from Grace United, notably provided by Karen and Brian Foster. Alice arrived in June and has settled in well. She is currently enrolled in courses at the Nova Scotia Community College with plans to enter the Licensed Practical Nurse course.

In 2020, Grace marked two noteworthy anniversaries. In September, we celebrated the Rev. Stephen Fram's 20th anniversary of ministry at Grace. We have benefited greatly from his stable leadership. Stephen will be on sabbatical for 3 months in 2020. We look forward to benefiting from the learnings Stephen brings back.

In November, we commemorated the 100th anniversary of the laying of the building's cornerstone. During 2020 we will continue to mark the 100th Anniversary under the leadership of the Worship Committee with Andrew Paton as chair.

In this report, I have mentioned only a small sample of the work we at Grace United have done in our church and in our community. I would like to thank all members of our staff, members of the Unified Board and all members and friends who make Grace what it is. As we enter a new decade, Grace United is well placed to face any challenges that come along. Our people are our strength. As you read the reports contained in this Annual Report you will be reminded of our many accomplishments in 2019. I encourage everyone to consider the many opportunities for participation in the life and work of Grace United Church in 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Cleave
Chair

Members of Unified Board 2019

Minister

Rev. Stephen Fram

Chair

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

Vice Chair

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

Immediate Past Chair

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

Clerk of Session

Andrew Paton

Treasurer

Lynn Loder

Envelope Steward

Martin Walker

Worship Committee

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

Christian Development Committee

Wanda Baker-Hayward, Chair
Vicki Harvey
Ian Hayward
Mark Hazen

Pastoral Care / Outreach Committee

Ann Mugford, Chair
Donna Hull
Patricia Mallowney

Finance Committee

Blair MacKinnon, Co-Chair
Connie Mack, Co-Chair
Brian Hull
Lynn Loder

Members of Unified Board 2019 (continued)

Ministry and Personnel Committee

Hugh Hall, Chair (January to March)
Lorna Carter, Member (January to March)
Chair (March to December)
Jenny de Zoete
Jennifer Eames (March to December)
Jill Thompson (March to December)

Property Committee

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

Innovation and Implementation Committee

Brian Foster Co-Chair
Karen Foster Co-Chair
David Foster
Paul McKeown
Stephen Penney

Communications Committee

Shirley Hazen, Chair
Stephen Penney
Martin Walker (January to April)

Special Gift Fund Committee

Lynn Loder, Chair
Blair MacKinnon
Connie Mack

Lay Representatives to Presbytery / Region 15

Barbara Henderson
Cindy Penney
Ron Shaw (June to December)

Members, Unified Board (Not on an Unified Board Committee)

Clifford Muise
Laura Muise
Carol Nielsen (March to December)
Deborah Odell

Worship Committee Annual Report 2019

The Worship Committee is responsible for matters associated with the worship service at Grace United. This includes: prayers with worship leaders before the service, recruiting readers for scripture at the Sunday 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.

In 2019 the Worship Committee was comprised of Reverend Stephen Fram, Malcolm Bradley (Organist & Choir Director), Alice Baker, Dick Charlton, Jim Connolly, Ron Shaw, Martin Walker and Andrew Paton, Chair (and Clerk of Session) and we held ten regular meetings.

Grace United is blessed to have Reverend Stephen Fram continue as our Minister, to provide spiritual leadership during the worship service and otherwise, and Malcolm Bradley continue as our organist and choir director. Heather Cronhelm, a theology student from the Atlantic School of Theology (AST), continued as part of the ministry team until the spring of 2019, and the completion of her third and final school term at Grace United. Ms. Cronhelm participated weekly in the worship service during the school year and on a couple of occasions was responsible for the sermon.

In 2019, the Worship Committee, with substantial input from Rev. Fram, completed a Supply Minister Check List. This check list identifies the various things that need to be done, both by the Committee and a Supply Minister, so that all the various elements in advance, during and after the service, are handled. These components range from what is expected of a supply Minister, to who that individual should contact in the church for arrangements for music and audio-visual support (e.g., Power Point slides), to making sure they receive remuneration for this service. During 2019 there were three occasions when a worship leader / supply Minister was engaged. Ron Shaw served as worship leader for Rev. Fram when he was teaching at AST on May 12th; Malcolm Bradley led the service on May 26th, when Rev. Fram was attending the Region 15 (formerly Maritime Conference) annual meeting; and Rev. Gloria Churchill served in this capacity for the Thanksgiving service, October 13th, when our Minister was away.

The worship service at Grace United is a blend of word and music involving our ministerial team, choir and congregation. Again in 2019 our Sunday services began with the congregation articulating our Grace United Vision and Mission statement. A children's story or time with the children, a sermon and prayers all form a regular part of the Sunday service and on occasion there were small playlets to dramatize the theme of the day. Music also plays an important part and our hymns come both from Voices United and More Voices. The choir presented choral anthems nearly every Sunday, and solos or duets were regularly presented by choir members too. Groups, such as the King Street Band, also offered of their musical talents. With upgrades to our AV system in recent years, words for the prayers, scripture and hymns are now provided on the screens at the front of the church. This technology also has enabled recording of the sermon and the anthem(s) from each Sunday's service, and these are now posted on our Grace United website, as a means to expand our ministry.

In 2019 Grace United celebrated its 166th Anniversary as a congregation and at our special Anniversary Service on November 17th, Reverend Michael Mugford, the Minister at Cole Harbour - Woodside United Church (and a former member of Grace United in his youth), was our guest preacher and we thank him for that. This year was also of special significance since it was the 100th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone for the existing church building, following the destruction of the previous structure in the Halifax Explosion. In honour of this centenary, a 'Memorabilia Table' was set up to highlight some artefacts symbolic of that time, such as pictures of the church, old Bible and hymn book as well as an old communion glass set. Also, we were very fortunate to have Lorna Huestis, a congregation member, speak about our Methodist roots and the congregation that built our current structure.

Worship Committee Annual Report 2019 (continued)

On Sunday February 24th, project ARC (Action, Responsibility, Choice), a young peoples group presented their show of word, music and movement, during the worship service. For the service on Sunday June 2nd, to complement the theme for the service, Orin Eisenhower, was invited to bring his loom and he wove a colourful table runner during the service, which is now in the King Street entryway. During Lent and Advent, we had special worship services of word and music. This year on Good Friday, Grace United hosted the downtown Dartmouth inter-denominational service. During Advent there was a White Gift service on December 8th, a special service of lessons and carols on December 15th and on Christmas eve there was a children's service at 4:30 pm and a more traditional service at 7:00 pm.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion took place during six worship services in 2019. For three of these the Methodist style (congregation comes forward) was used and the other three, the Traditional style (congregation is served in the pews). The one in August included the congregation from St. James United, since it was when we have our combined services. For the Communion in December, in honour of the 100th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone, the old communion glasses sets were used.

In 2019 there were no children baptised at Grace United, although one adult member of the congregation, in January, was received into membership through profession of faith.

One wedding took place at Grace United in 2019, in September.

The Worship Committee orchestrated the decorating of the Sanctuary for Thanksgiving and Christmas and in particular thanks Eleanor Hall and Betty Lou Suddard for their role in the latter.

Grace United in 2019 continued to provide a ministry of word and music at two places beyond our church sanctuary; one, once a month on Wednesday afternoons for the residents at Parkland at the Lakes residential complex along Baker Drive, and the other at Oakwood, a seniors' complex in Woodside, where we provided a Sunday afternoon service a number of times during the year on a rotational basis with other local churches. These services were led by our minister and our director of music, who were joined by a number of members from the Grace choir.

In 2019 the Worship Committee updated the church's wedding and funeral policies to reflect changes approved by the Unified Board to the policy for use of the audio-visual system in the church sanctuary.

To complement to the Worship Committee's key project last year, namely a new antependium (banner/hanging) with the United Church crest on the front of the pulpit, this year the committee commissioned the making of new stoles/scarves for the choir gowns. We thank Catherine Mertens for her work making these stoles, which have reversable colours, one with red/white and the other green/purple, to match the four different coloured antependia she made for us last year.

I thank the members of the Worship Committee for their dedicated service during the year, particularly Reverend Stephen Fram, for his spiritual leadership and ministry, and Malcolm Bradley for his ministry of music. I also, on behalf of the Worship Committee, thank all those from the congregation who contributed of their time and talent, be it reading scripture, singing, playing an instrument or acting, serving communion, operating the AV system, or otherwise, to make the worship service an important spiritual experience.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Paton
Chair of Worship and Clerk of Session

Choir Annual Report 2019

Director and Organist	Malcolm Bradley (since 1992)
Members as at December 2019	31 (includes some snow birds and on extended leaves)
Executive	President Eleanor Hall
	Treasurer Chris Wolfe
	Librarian/VP Ian Fraser
	Secretary Connie Mack & Margi Hennen
	Social Susan Forsyth
	Wardrobe Debbie Fram

Membership changes

We welcome Sharon O'Driscoll, wife of Terry O'Driscoll, to our group, she joined in January 2019.

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. Malcolm has been attending various workshops in the USA and Canada over the past few years, bringing back exciting new and old music and teaching techniques. The choir has an enthusiastic group of singers performing solos or duets, and 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 which are much appreciated by the residents. Services are also held Wednesday afternoons at Parkland at the Lakes, Baker Drive, by Rev. 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.

In April, Betty Robertson celebrated her 80th birthday with a grand party at the Alderney Landing Theatre, for which her husband invited the choir to sing. Those who attended (16) were also treated to dinner. It was quite a party, good food, drink, and entertainment.

The Choir received a generous in-kind gift this year in the form of new stoles for the gowns (two per gown), to match the colors of the pulpit hangings (antependia) to mark the different seasons of the church year. Many thanks to Catherine Mertens and Mary Walker for the materials and sewing.

Another generous gift-in kind came from Betty Robertson in the form of new flooring for the choir room. This was part of a major renovation in removing the old closet to make space for the choir members to assemble there on Sunday mornings, as we have grown to 31 members and the old space became somewhat crowded. The choir bought new filing cabinets for the music and coat racks to hang the choir gowns.

Special Events / Services with choir

This year again, Malcolm practiced on the choir what he learned in the workshops and seminars he attended during the year, something the choir members greatly appreciate and are always eager to learn new styles of choir singing and music.

For May 26, conference weekend, Anniversary Sunday, November 17, and December 15, Carols and Readings, the choir presented special music with guest musicians, who also provided music at occasional regular Sunday services.

Choir Annual Report 2019 (continued)

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, and to Brenda Weir, who filled in as conductor on one occasion when Malcolm was away.

Guest musicians this year were:

The King Street Band; Cynthia Davies, piano; Alison Roe-Smith, flute; and Debbie Miles, violin. They have become regular musicians accompanying the choir. We also welcomed Jason Haugh on drums, Sue-Ellen Wilder on cello, Roger Stone and Martin Walker on guitars, and Heather Mayka playing the trumpet. Charles Myra assisted one time at rehearsal, as did Lynn Pelton, who then also accompanied us at the Carols and Reading service in December.

Appreciation and many thanks are given to these outstanding instrumentalists, also to our choir members, brave enough to sing solos, duets, trios, and quartets.

Many thanks and appreciation also to the choir members who are so faithfully attending rehearsals and Sunday morning worship services, come rain, sun, wind, snow, or ice, and especially to Malcolm for his musical expertise and dedicated work with this wonderful and gifted group of singers, listed below.

- Sopranos** - Alice Baker, Elinor Benjamin, Shirley Cameron, Jennifer Eames, Mim Fraser, Sheila Haines, Eleanor Hall, Margi Hennen, Hélène Lemay, Karen Leslie, Sharon O'Driscoll, Jill Thompson
- Altos** - Ann Dent, Susan Forsyth, Debbie Fram, Jennifer Garvey, Connie Mack, Pat McCormack, Frances Wallace, Brenda Weir
- Tenors** - David Fraser, Phillip Fraser, Hugh Hall, Douglas Jones, Andrew Paton, Chris Wolfe
- Basses** - Ian Fraser, Brian Hennen, John Menzies, Terry O'Driscoll, Ron Shaw

Choir socials

A Spring social was held on May 5 as a potluck with wonderful food and fellowship at the party room at Holtwood Court. It seems to become the choir's social address, as we also held our pre-Christmas social there on November 24, again as potluck and much enjoyed by all, not to forget the stunning view from the penthouse floor of that building over the harbor and Halifax.

Many thanks to Shirley Cameron for booking the party room in her (and Malcolm's) building, to the social committee under Susan Forsyth's direction for preparations and clean-up, and choir members for bringing most delicious dishes.

Choir rehearsals are Wednesday's from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm at Grace United Church in the upper hall. 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 2019

Balance Forwarded January 1, 2019 **\$3,234.23**

Receipts	Dues	\$ 260.00
	Donations	\$ 300.00
	Donation - In Memory of D. Churchill	\$ 4,000.00
	Donation - Broadway & Beyond	\$ 700.00
	Total	<u>\$ 5,260.00</u>

Disbursements

Nova Scotia Choral Fed Membership	\$ 75.00
Filing Cabinets	\$ 517.50
Music Purchase	\$ 119.61
Musicians - Dec 17th service	\$ 450.00
White Gift donation	\$ 50.00
Total	<u>\$ 1,212.11</u>

Closing Balance December 31, 2019 **\$ 7,282.12**

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Wolfe
Treasurer

AV System Upgrade Project Report 2019

In 2018 Grace United Church (through the AV team) undertook a project to complete the upgrade of the church's Audio-Visual system. Over the previous 3 years the audio equipment purchased had served the needs of Grace very well; however, there were system gaps identified. These gaps included: the need for new technologies to support hearing impaired Congregants; improve sound capture in the Sanctuary; and the need to replace the temporary video equipment. These improvements were focused on improving the audio and visual worship experience for Congregants / Choir, and establishing the technology needed for internet based Out Reach.

The project experienced a number of setbacks and delays, but by the end of 2018 the installation was 75% completed. System deployment, configuration and AV Team training was expected to be completed by mid-March 2019. However, the cost of hiring wiring experts to complete some of the video control wiring was found to be prohibitive. Therefore the team decided to do the work in house; due to volunteer time constraints this has led to further slippage in finalizing the work. We have now acquired the tools and material required to complete the wiring of the new video systems, at the same time finding cheaper replacements for some equipment and software. We have also acquired equipment (mikes and small audio board) to support small group events (Open Mike Night, Duets, etc).

The team currently is aiming at completing the remaining wiring and reconfiguration work during February-March 2020. On the funding side we are left with about \$10,000.00 on the internal loan from the Memorial Fund, and we hope to retire that this year. Internet-based outreach is currently waiting on finishing the internal infrastructure.

The team would like to thank all those who have supported (and assisted in) this project. Maintaining a system such as ours is an ongoing task. We have a great group of volunteers setting up and running the booth each Sunday (but none of us are professionals so please bear with the errors that occasionally occur). We would also like to encourage anyone who would like to volunteer to approach any of the team members. It's not as hard as you might think, and we always have two people in the booth.

The AV Team consists of: Anthony Archibald, Ian Fraser, Darrell Harvey, Mark Hazen and Paul McKeown.

Respectfully submitted,

Darrell Harvey on behalf of the AV Team

Christian Development Committee Annual Report 2019

This was a busy year as I look back at all the things we have done. In January, we said goodbye to Felicitas Daun. She was a student from Heidelberg, Germany who had been staying with our family. She came to church, loved it and helped out each week with Sunday School. In February, we had Project ARC come and do a church service for us. It was enjoyed by everyone who attended. In June, we had our Sunday School closing and ice cream sundaes along with Volunteer Appreciation. We had our Pizza Oven pizza lunch and welcome back to church event in September. It was a great day for this event and all who attended really enjoyed making their own pizza in the brick oven. We also held the Grace Talent Fair in October. It was a great chance for members of the congregation to learn about what all the different committees in the church do. It was an event in which all were engaged and some people expressed interest in joining some of the committees in the church. We hope to have another event like this but possibly with different groups in the church.

Those are the special events that our committee coordinated. We also have the weekly and monthly activities such as Sunday School. I thank Vicki Harvey for all her work in this program and also to Rachael Hayward for her help in the Nursery and Sunday School. I would also like to thank Anna Archibald for all her help with Sunday School and putting together some great crafts for the children especially that amazing banner that was used for Thanksgiving. Thank you to Mark and Shirley Hazen for bringing out the library cart on a weekly basis.

We can not forget those wonderful piggy banks for the Leprosy Mission. The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, the Easter Breakfast and the Seder Supper are other events during Lent and Easter. We also had our Christmas Stocking Campaign where we bought gifts for Veith House and the Dartmouth Family Centre. Thank you to Janet Bond and Lisa MacSween for organizing this and for delivering all the gifts to their destinations. Also there is the White Gift Service in December. We also decorated cookies again for Margaret's House. A fun part of every Christmas Party, decorating cookies to give away and getting to eat one yourself. Also thank you to all who helped out with the Children's Christmas Eve service.

We also have other activities such as Guiding and Scouting and the monthly Book Club. New members are welcome at any time to the Book Club; just talk to Mark Hazen or Sandy Foster. The Adult Education piece led by Rev. Stephen Fram, Rev. Ivan Gregan from Port Wallis and Rev. Catherine MacDonald from Stairs. This year, Julie Wilson retired from our committee and although we were sad to see her go, we thank her for her many years of contributing to the committee.

Thank you to all the committee members for all you do - Rev. Stephen Fram, Janet Bond, Helen Gay, Vicki Harvey, and Mark Hazen.

Respectfully submitted,

Wanda Baker-Hayward
Chair

5th Dartmouth Beaver Colony and Cub Pack Report 2019

We have had a great year in 2019. In the first half of the year we had 15 Beavers and 15 Cubs registered. The numbers stayed the same in the second half of the year, however most of the youth were new to Scouting.

Throughout the year we held several fundraisers including, Acadian Maple Products, Scout Popcorn, Apple Day and Quickie Dough. The funds raised during the year and the dues that are collected at the weekly meetings fund our activities and camps.

The Beavers meet on Wednesday evening in the lower hall from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm. The meetings consist of an Opening and Closing, a craft and usually a game or two. They also visited Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History and The Discovery Centre. They joined 5th Dartmouth Cubs at Camp Harris in December for the annual Christmas camp.

The Cubs meet on Tuesday evening in the upper hall from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. The meetings consist of an Opening and Closing, badge work and games. They have visited museums and participated in rock climbing. There have been a few camps that they have attended including Camp Harris and Chaswood.

We are grateful to our Scouters who volunteer their time to ensure we have an active Scouting program at Grace United Church. We extend our appreciation to Grace United Church for providing a meeting space for our Group.

Yours in Scouting,

Ian Hayward
Group Commissioner 5th Dartmouth

Pastoral Care / Outreach Committee Annual Report 2019

Members of the Pastoral Care / Outreach Committee:

Rev. Stephen Fram, Betty Lou Suddard, Eleanor Hall, Mary Walker, Donna Hull, Pat Mullowney and Ann Mugford (Chair). We usually meet eight times a year.

Following is a summary of our efforts over the past year, to support our congregation and to 'reach out' to our community.

Pastoral Care

- **Visitation Coordination Committee** - Betty Lou Suddard is providing leadership for this committee. Here is her report:
The Pastoral Visitors Group has again had a busy year. There are presently 24 seniors from Grace United who are being visited or contacted by phone on a regular basis by the members of the Visitors group.
Pauline Murdock again sent greeting cards to many of our members. Pauline has used her beautiful photographs to make cards and include personalized messages in each. There was a total of 29 cards sent: 21 Sympathy Cards for the loss of a loved one, 2 cards for hospitalizations, 4 cards for birthdays and 2 cards for "Hello" messages to seniors in residences. This year the Christmas "Poinsettia Program" was carried out in early December. There were 21 beautiful poinsettias, 2 cans of shortbread cookies and one box of chocolates delivered to seniors from Grace United by Pastoral Visitors.
- **Coffee Fellowship** has been coordinated by June Charlton for many years. This past summer, June offered her resignation as coffee convenor. On behalf of our church family, I want to express our deep appreciation to June, for her long and devoted commitment organizing Sunday morning fellowship at Grace, We are thankful for June's capable and consistent leadership for this integral part of Sunday morning worship.
Ann Mugford, with support from Susan Forsyth, will take on the responsibilities.
- **Sunday Greeters** continue to be coordinated by Eleanor Hall. She has stated how pleased she is about our congregation's willingness to participate in this ministry.
- **The Ambassador Program** is coordinated by Donna Hull. She reported that she is pleased about our congregation's response to her requests. She would still welcome more volunteers. For those who might consider participating in this valuable ministry, Donna has a short 'how-to-guide' to assist volunteers.
- **Funeral Receptions** are coordinated by Mary Walker. She reports that she has a committed group of volunteers to support her when receptions are needed.

Outreach

- **Unified Board Contributions** - For 2019, our Unified Board budgeted \$3,500 for Outreach contributions to agencies in our community. The PC/O Committee recommended the following donations that were approved by our Unified Board:

Adsum House	\$200	Food for Phoenix	\$100
Atlantic School of Theology	\$300	Laing House	\$100
Benevolent Fund	\$400	MOSH [Mobile Outreach Street Health]	\$200
Byrony House	\$100	North Dartmouth Outreach Resource Centre	\$500
Camp Kidston	\$1,000	Phoenix House	\$100
Dalhousie Chaplain	\$300	Stepping Stone	\$200

Pastoral Care / Outreach Committee Annual Report 2019 (continued)

Outreach (continued)

- **Tree of Warmth** - In December, our congregation generously decorated a Christmas tree with items that bring warmth to those in need. There was a special request for male and female undergarments, in addition to socks and gloves/mittens. A total of 332 items were donated which included 71m/f undergarments; 153 pairs of m/f socks; 25 pairs of m/f gloves & mittens; 53m/f hats & tuques; 5 children's hats; 5 pairs of children's mittens; 18 scarves; 1 pair each of rain boots & PJs. These items were delivered to Brunswick Street Mission. Mary Walker, Donna Hull, Pat Mallowney & Ann Mugford coordinated this project.
- **Alice House & Coverdale** - In Spring and Fall, our congregation donated personal care items to Alice House [Safe second stage housing and supportive counselling for women and children in their recovery from intimate partner violence] and Coverdale [An organization to provide support and services to women and girls experiencing the justice system]. It was our way to contribute to those who need this support and to those who provide it. Pat Mallowney coordinated these projects.
- **Blanket Exercise** - On November 2, our committee organized this educational event for our congregation and for the community at large. Members of Kairos and Elder Billy Lewis presented the Blanket Exercise, which is an interactive exercise that taught us about the history of Indigenous and Immigrant people in Canada - a history that most of us have never learned. Twenty people from various congregations participated in this very informative and powerful learning experience.
- **Christian Relief and Development Coalition [C.R.D.C.]** This committee supports Feeding Others of Dartmouth at Margaret's House - also known as F.O.O.D. This coalition consists of representatives from fifteen churches of various faiths in Dartmouth. Grace's representative, Ann Mugford, submitted this report:
One very special part of our commitment to F.O.O.D. at Margaret's House is the preparation of one meal a month, for 100 guests. Over 30 members of our congregation (organized in groups of 10 and on a rotational schedule) contribute to this very important need. Susan Forsyth has agreed to monitor and provide leadership to this project.
In addition, we contribute to special meals for occasions like Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. This usually involves cooked hams and turkeys. Throughout the year, we check in with the staff about any specific needs they have and, when possible, respond accordingly.
Another part of our involvement is through regular Sunday giving and designated donations. In 2019, Grace members donated \$3,007.96 to assist with the operation of Margaret's House. The annual fundraiser, Christmas Full of Caring Auction and Dinner, held the first Sunday in December, was very successful this year raising approximately \$38,000. Once again, our Grace congregation was very supportive by donating baked goods and other auction items, by sponsorship or by attending/participating in the auction. I want to express a very special thank you to all, for your continued, generous and thoughtful support for those who experience food insecurity.
In 2019, a total of 37,768 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 and graciously to our many and varied requests. We are truly grateful.

To each committee member, I would like to express deep gratitude for your leadership, commitment and support for all our pastoral care and outreach endeavors.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Mugford
Chair

Communications Committee Annual Report 2019

Mandate

The Communications Committee of Grace United Church was given the mandate to seek to inform, engage, and motivate internal and external stakeholders of Grace about the broad mission of the Church. This Committee has responsibility for providing advice, resources and/or services regarding both internal communications and external communications.

When the Committee was started over a year ago, it was given oversight over our existing products which were carried out by a number of individuals. This represented an opportunity to more effectively use the products to promote Grace and reinforce our message. Therefore, the first focus of the Committee was on existing products primarily the website to see if it could be updated and restructured. That work is well underway.

Committee members have no formal training in this area so we took advantage of some free educational opportunities: Martin Walker attended a session on Accessibility and Shirley Hazen attended one on Social Media.

New Products

A number of new products were developed this year to promote Grace and its events both internally and externally:

- A publicity document and one-page event checklist were developed for Committees planning events
- A folding leaflet about Grace United Church and an August-November events handout were created for the Spiritual Fair during Pride Week; these were subsequently used more generally in the fall
- December-January Activity handout
- Christmas Worship/Event handout for November Book Sale
- E-mail mailout of Jim's Prayer, This Week at Grace and This Weekend at Grace
- Infographic in support of the Stewardship Campaign

Existing products

Pre-show PowerPoint: A slide show is shown prior to each service and during the week at the King Street entrance. It conveys some information about the service, upcoming events, activities of the church and contacts for further information to participate in Church activities. For the Anniversary Service and the Sunday after, the slide show contained many historical pictures.

Website (gracedartmouth.ca): In 2019, the Committee undertook some updating of the website, refreshing content and reorganizing the site. In 2019, there were 3,357 unique visitors (up 13.3% from the previous year). Some visitors returned multiple times so that there were 4,298 visits (up 19%) and 10,100-page views (up 21.7%). Our home page accounted for nearly 50 per cent of the visits. As to be expected, Canadians were the majority of our visits (91.8%); Americans were second (4.5%); and French were third (0.59%).

Social Media

Social media has emerged in the last decade as place to engage with people and can be used to create communities and networks. There are a number of different platforms featuring different types of content which have different audiences. Grace United participates in social media actively creating content on a number of platforms. This represents a substantial commitment of time.

Communications Committee Annual Report 2019 (continued)

Social Media (continued)

Facebook (*gracedartmouth or Grace United Church*): Facebook is our most dynamic presence on social media, generally having a daily post. Posts are divided between informing people what we are doing, promoting events, raising spiritually interesting questions, etc. This year we expanded our base theme content ("Throwback Thursday" which shows a historical picture, a valentine series in February and Christmas carols in the Christmas period) by featuring nativity scenes in December.

We have moved much of our event promotion to social media. From January 21, 2019 to January 22 2020, Grace posted 99 events reaching 79,000 people. Events on Facebook are generally seen by between 50-200 people but with sharing, some of our better-known events reach far more: Children's Christmas Service - 1,000; Sea Glass Workshop - 6,400; Fall into Christmas Tea and Sale - 11,100; Giant Book Sale - 29,400; and Perennial Sale 49,300. When the Special Initiatives Committee ask people where did they hear about the events, facebook is often mentioned. Our posts are also shared on the United Churches for Dartmouth group page.

The audience for us is predominately female (approximately 70%) and over the age of 34 (83%). Overall, we have 331 followers of our facebook (57 added this year), 300 of whom are in Canada.

YouTube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/user/gracedartmouth/videos>): Grace has its own YouTube Channel on which it posts videos of sermons, drama, anthems and special musical offerings. Our website features some of the offerings and we also link facebook to some of our YouTube videos. The Channel has 75 subscribers, a gain of 26 from last year. Views of 2019 content ranges from three views to 772 but we have an older Choir piece that has received 9,500 views.

Twitter (@gracedartmouth): In the past our twitter account was linked to our Facebook account which automatically created content. It became de-linked this year and we haven't been able to relink it. For most of the year our content has been Jim's Prayer and This week/This weekend. We have 145 followers, a gain of three from last year.

Instagram (*gracedartmouth*): Instagram, primarily a photo and video sharing platform, is our newest foray into social media with an account created in late December. As of January 22, 2020, we had done 24 posts and had 25 followers.

All Candidates Forum

The Communications Committee supported by other Grace volunteers and volunteers from Christ Church Anglican and Face of Poverty held a very well attended All-Candidates Forum for the federal election on October 4.

Members of the Committee are Shirley Hazen - Chair, Stephen Penney, and Rev. Stephen Fram. Martin Walker stepped down during the year. We would welcome additional members. We also want to express our thanks to Dick Charlton, Jill Thompson and Mark Hazen who have taken pictures for us during the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley J. Hazen
Chair

Ministry and Personnel Committee Annual Report 2019

The Ministry and Personnel (M&P) Committee of Grace United Church is responsible for all matters relating to the paid staff; in particular, salaries, working conditions and clarification of responsibilities.

In January, M&P provided the Finance Committee with recommendations for salary increases and related remuneration for all of the church personnel. This continues to be one of our annual responsibilities.

With the annual meeting in March, there was a change in the membership of our committee. I would like to thank Hugh Hall for his hard work as Chair of M&P over the previous three years. And we welcomed two new members: Jill Thompson and Jennifer Eames. Continuing members are Cathy Spencer, Jenny de Zoete, and Lorna Carter, incoming Chair.

In April, a performance review was done for the Rental Manager, Dale Wilson. This was done in association with the Property Committee. Through the Spring, each member of the M&P Committee met with one of the long-term staff to review and revise their contracts. Then, in May, the Committee completed Performance Reviews with each staff member: Stephen Fram (Minister), Malcolm Bradley (Director of Music), Thelma Blaikie (Office Administrator), and Bill Busby (Caretaker).

With the resignation of the Rental Manager, effective August 31, a Search and Selection Committee was struck, consisting of Pat Cleave, Bob Picco and Lorna Carter. This committee was active through July, August and September, with reviewing the job description, advertising, reviewing applications and interviewing. Rev. Fram filled in for the month of September, covering the bulk of the duties of Rental Manager. We successfully hired Robert (Bob) Tobin to start in early October and he is settling in nicely.

The other item of business is planning for Rev. Fram's Sabbatical. He will be away from July 1, 2020 to November 1, 2020. This includes one month holiday and three months Sabbatical. The dates were approved at the Board meeting of May 30, 2019. A meeting was held in November with the Board Chair and Vice-chair, as well as the Chairs of Worship, Finance, Pastoral Care and M&P, to approve a framework for coverage while he is away. The planning is to be continued in the New Year.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorna Carter
Chair

Property Committee Annual Report 2019

The Property Committee was very active during the past year with a number of major projects, the regular maintenance program and activities related to the rental program.

I also take this opportunity to thank the other members of our group who worked tirelessly during the year to ensure that all the projects were completed in a timely and professional manner.

This year the following major and minor projects were completed:

- Replacement of shingles on a large section of the roof
- Reconstruction of two of the four brickwork buttresses
- Replacement of the metal canopy roof and repairs to the exit doorway in the back entrance off the driveway
- Recaulking around the foundation
- Repair of cracks in the concrete on the ramp and basement stairs
- Rehab of the choir room downstairs, including new flooring
- Refinishing of the floor in the upper hall
- Installed new ovens in lower hall kitchen
- Installation of a new stair rail on the stairs near the ramp entrance
- Installation of a security camera entry and new security lighting at the lower hall entrance
- Installation of a key pad lock entry system at the King Street entrance
- Rehab and repainting of the alcove above the upper hall and touch up painting in the sanctuary area
- Cleaning and waxing of the lower hall floor.
- Replacement of some missing shingles to repair a leak near Minister's entrance.
- Clean up of upper floor storage room
- Repairs made to furnace #3, including new breakers to replace fuses

A number of work parties were held during the year to check the emergency lighting, timers, change furnace filters and other maintenance activities.

Participated in the hiring of a new rental manager who started in October 2019.

Our group looks forward to continue our efforts to plan and complete projects that will maintain the physical integrity of the property, provide welcoming space for the community and a comfortable environment to carry out our programs and services.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Property Group: Darrell Blenus, Darrell Harvey, Ian Fraser, Dale Knox, Darrell Spencer and Martin Walker.

Bob Picco
Chair

Rental Manager's Annual Report 2019

Rentals			
Area	Date	Number of Rentors	Number of Regular Hours Booked Per Week
Day Care	January to December inclusive	2	40
Kitchen	January & February	5	29.5
	March to August inclusive	5	24.5
	September 1 st to 30 th	5	27.5
	October 1 st to December 20 th	5	17.5
Upper Hall	January to March 6 th	4	16
	March 7 th to 31 st	3	15
	April 1 st to June 18 th	2	12
	June 19 th to August 5 th	1	6
	August 6 th to September 16 th	2	8
	September 17 th to December 20 th	3	14

The rental groups using the hall on a regular basis include: Taekwon Do, Other fitness groups, Club Inclusion, Community choir

There are other occasional rental events such as concerts. During the year Grace United hosted 4 such events.

The space in the church is also used for:

- Church Groups - Worship services, Sunday School, Funerals, Weddings, Choir, Committees, Men's Group and Women's Group activities, Grace Initiatives Committee events and other church events.
- Community groups - Guiding groups, Scouting groups, project ARC theatre (Action, Responsibility, Choice), Inclusive Choir, Club Dartmouth, Children's Recitals

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Tobin
Rental Manager

Board of Trustees Annual Report 2019

During the calendar year 2019 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.

Through their activities on other committees at Grace the Trustees remain informed of matters related to the 'real property' of the church.

List of Trustees:

Susan Forsyth
Darrell Harvey
Lynn Loder
Blair MacKinnon
Darrell Spencer

Respectfully submitted,

Darrell Spencer
Chairperson of Trustees

Men's Breakfast Club Annual Report 2019

The Grace United Men's Breakfast Club once again scheduled seven Sunday morning breakfasts in 2019, 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 early Sunday morning Fellowship and by the nutritious free food.

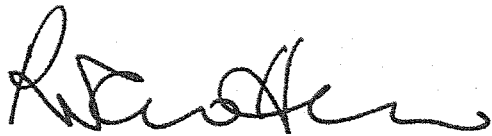
The food is essentially free because breakfast is provided and paid for by one of the four small groups who each take turns during the year. The groups are drawn from among the men, each group serving a hot and inventive knife and fork breakfast, with tea, coffee, juice, bread and jam, and occasionally 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 2019 our Guest Speakers have included the following:

<i>January 20th</i>	<i>Cancelled</i>	<i>Inclement Weather</i>
<i>February 18th</i>	<i>Dr. Jenny Foster</i>	<i>Pediatric Cardiac Surgery: Kenya</i>
<i>March 17th</i>	<i>Louise Gray</i>	<i>Fetal alcohol spectrum disorder</i>
<i>(April 21st</i>	<i>Rev Stephen Fram</i>	<i>Congregational Waterfront service)</i>
<i>May 19th</i>	<i>Mark Hazen</i>	<i>The Maori: Cook Islands and New Zealand</i>
<i>October 29th</i>	<i>Martin Walker</i>	<i>General group discussion</i>
<i>November 17th</i>	<i>Rev. Michael Mugford</i>	<i>Reflections on ministry</i>
<i>December 15th</i>	<i>Malcolm Bradley</i>	<i>Christmas Carols around the piano</i>

We have no doubt 2020 will be another clear sighted year. And all men are reminded to make careful note of the upcoming breakfast dates given in the Grace Bulletin, or on the Grace website, Facebook, on the sign up sheet at the back of the church, or on the pre-service slide show. 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, 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

Region 15 Representatives Annual Report 2019

In 2019 Grace United had three regional council representatives - Barbara Henderson, Ron Shaw and Cindy Penney. Barbara Henderson has retired as representative.

Regions East web site for Region 15 is now live at <https://ucceast.ca/regional-council-15/>

Weekly newsletters (Region 14 & 15) are posted - anyone can subscribe to have it sent to their email.

The Inaugural meeting of Regional Council 15 was held at the Tantramar Veterans Memorial Civic Centre and Mount Allison University from May 23-26, 2019 in conjunction with Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters (14) Region. The meeting was chaired by Rev. Catherine MacDonald - the last President of Maritime Conference who transitioned to President of Region 15. Also at the table were Heather Donnelly, the chair of the Regional Council 14 and the executive minister for regions 14, 15, 16 - known as UCC East - Rev. Faith March-MacCuish .

Rev Stephen Fram and two Regional Council reps for Grace - Cindy Penney and Ron Shaw - attended the meeting.

The regions met separately for business meetings. The Governance Structure for Region 15 was accepted as a Living Document with the understanding that changes will be made as we live into the new system.

Janet Sallows was elected President and Jane MacDonald was elected President Designate for Region 15.

A motion was passed that the naming of Regional Council 15 be delayed until after the relationship between Bermuda Synod and the UCC under the new organization has been confirmed.

Regions 14 and 15 will meet in conjunction (with separate business meetings) at the 2020 AGM from May 21-24.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Shaw
Cindy Penney

United Churches for Dartmouth (UCfD) Annual Report 2019

United Churches for Dartmouth (formerly Dartmouth United Futures (DUF)) is a venue for collaboration and sharing between congregations of the United Church in Dartmouth, NS. In terms of the new United Church structure it is an example of a "cluster". The group meets quarterly, rotating between the various congregations. In general, many of the members of UCfD are representatives of the congregational Boards, although all are welcome, and during 2019 we had increased participation by clergy.

In 2019 we met as follows:

Date	Location	Program
March	Port Wallis	Check-in, AntiPoverty Initiative, Clusters
June	Grace United	Post mortem on AntiPoverty Initiative, Planning for future projects
September	Stairs Memorial	Check-in, Future projects
Dec/Jan 20	Woodlawn	Check-in, Reports, Planning for Grant Writing workshop

In 2019, UCfD transitioned Spirit Café, the communications Facebook page, and the Shared Adult education projects from pilot projects to on-going initiatives.

The Shared Bible Study program has ministerial staff from one congregation providing leadership in a Bible study using the venue of a different congregation. In 2019 four Bible studies were held.

Date	Program	Leader	Location
Feb 2019	Celtic Theology	Ivan Gregan	Stairs Memorial
April/May 2019	Intentional Theological Reflection	Stephen Fram	Port Wallis
Sept 2019	Theology 101: Roots of Musical Praise/Worship/Baptism/Communion/	Ivan Gregan	Grace
Nov/Dec 2019	Advent: Belonging	Catherine MacDonald	Port Wallis

In response to the municipal antipoverty strategy developed by the United Way and an UCfD sponsored AntiPoverty Workshop held in September 2018, a number of meetings with front-line workers were held early in 2019. The primary outcome of these meetings was the understanding that the target community must be involved, and that there is need for opportunities for inclusive community building. A trial project with the aim to provide a zero-cost place for the community to gather and socialize was developed. Initially, it was hoped that we could piggyback on the Woodlawn based foodbank, and the Dartmouth East Community Centre (EDCC) to provide café locations. Unfortunately, the timing did not fit with the foodbank's current projects. A three month trial was conducted at the EDCC, however, it proved not to be a good location. The main learning from the trial was the need for a location within the geographic comfort zone of the target population - unfortunately EDCC is not seen as "their" place. Other locations were scouted but proved beyond the financial/personnel resources available. At present this project is on hold.

The UCfD Facebook site for sharing inter-congregational and community events has been getting increasing traffic from most of the congregations. It aims to provide a venue to announce and share events between congregations and also to promote events of the larger Dartmouth community. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/UnitedChurchesforDartmouth/>. Come check out what is going on.

United Churches for Dartmouth (UCfD) Annual Report 2019 (continued)

Spirit Café (begun in 2017) continues with alternating discussion and music events at the Wooden Monkey Restaurant in the Alderney ferry terminal. A change of venue was required when Rosetta's closed in the spring. The Wooden Monkey has proved to be a good location as it has improved accessibility. This initiative was supported by Stairs, Grace and Port Wallis ministerial staff. Spirit Café is a non-traditional spiritual gathering on the 1st (discussion) and 3rd (music) Tuesdays of the month. We were blessed in 2019 to have Adam Johnson from Port Wallis lead us once again in the music program. Discussion topics ranged widely:

- What do we mean by God's Grace?
- What is Shrove Tuesday? (In conjunction with Grace's Pancake supper)
- Standing up to Empire
- Concepts of the Resurrection
- Pentecost?
- Nationalism/Populism
- Forgiveness
- Faith: Journey or Destination
- What's the Christian's Responsibility for Citizenship?
- Stewardship and Climate Change
- Advent/Christmas: Anxiety or Anticipation

One of the main benefits of UCfD/DUF has been the opportunity for members of congregational 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 then have the opportunity to ask questions and some amazing discussions have resulted.

In 2020, UCfD is working to sponsor a workshop on grant proposal writing and the development of resources on available regional and national church grant programs. It is currently hoped that this workshop will take place in late April or early May.

Respectfully submitted,

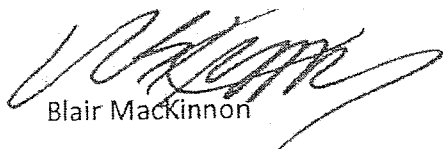
Mark Hazen
Chair United Churches for Dartmouth.

Grace Initiatives Committee Annual Report 2019

The Grace Initiatives Committee had a very successful year with net revenues of \$27,253.92. Attached to this report is a summary of the activities and revenue of Grace Initiatives for 2019. Your committee consists of 11 members and we were happy to welcome Carol Nielsen as the newest member of our committee.

At our first meeting in January we discussed upcoming events for 2020. If anyone would like to participate in the activities, we are always happy for the assistance and if anyone has any suggestions for other fund raisers, we are always happy to receive new ideas.

All of which is respectfully submitted,



Blair MacKinnon

Grace Initiatives - 2019 Revenue

Bulletin	280.00
Calendars	200.00
Cash Cards	1,000.00
Gentle Yoga	1,090.00
Giant Book Sale	\$2,501.00
Ham Jam	1,515.00
Lobster Supper	7,093.57
Loonies and Toonies	104.00
Memory Tree	1,710.00
Plant Sale	6,805.00
Sea Glass	645.00
Tea and Sale	4,002.90
Open Mic	307.45
Total	\$27,253.92

Benevolent Fund Annual Report 2019

The Benevolent Fund is an emergency fund for supporting individuals in need. In most cases they come to the church asking for assistance. The Fund is administered by the minister and in most cases, depending on needs, individuals are directed to appropriate agencies before they are given gift cards.

In 2019 the fund started with a negative carry over of (\$105). The Unified Board provided \$400 for the year. \$295 in Sobey's gift cards were given to 11 individuals. Balance at end of 2019 is \$0.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Stephen Fram

Special Gift Fund Annual Report 2019

The Special Gift 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, Connie Mack and Blair MacKinnon. The reports were prepared by Lynn Loder.

We would ask that members of Grace United Church remember the Special Gift 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
Special Gift/Memorial Fund
as at December 31, 2019**

\$\$

	Fund balance at Jan 1 /19	83,003.25
Receipts	Donations - general	8,116.05
	Donations for Organ Fund	220.00
	Dividends	1,268.82
	Unrealized gain on ManuLife shares at 12/31/19	4,781.16
	Interest	408.82
	Total Receipts	14,794.85
Disbursements	Total Disbursements	0.00
	Net Surplus at Dec 31/19	14,794.85
	Fund balance at Dec 31/19	97,798.10
Assets		
	Bank - CIBC	6,480.41
	GIC, 1 year cashable, 2.05% interest rate	60,278.33
	Total Cash & GICs	66,758.74
684 shares	ManuLife (stock value at Dec 31, 2019)	18,030.24
	Total Cash at Dec 31/19	84,788.98
	Due to / from affiliated Funds	
	Due from Grace Operating fund.	12,909.12
	Due from Ministry Bursary Fund	100.00
	Total due from affiliated Funds	13,009.12
	Total Fund balance at Dec 31/19	97,798.10
	Notes to Fund balances	
	Unrestricted Cash Funds and due from Grace general fund & Bursary	62,927.62
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	2,609.10
	Total restricted funds	3,831.12
	Total Cash Fund	66,758.74

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, 2019 to December 31, 2019**

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, 2019	3,616.66
Interest Income earned during the GIC term	317.92
Funds paid out to Ministry Candidate	
Balance of Funds available Dec 31,2019	<u>3,934.58</u>
CIBC GIC with an annual interest rate of 2% with a term of 1 year maturing December 10. 2020	5,000.00
Reinvested accumulated interest	3,834.58
Due to Special Gift fund	<u>100.00</u>
Total amount invested	<u><u>8,934.58</u></u>

**Grace United Church
Organ Fund
January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019**

		\$\$
Organ fund started 1963	Fund Balance	Jan 1,2019 10,972.05
	Receipts - Donations	220.00
	interest income	0.00
	Disbursements	<u>0.00</u>
	Fund Balance Dec 31,2019	<u><u>11,192.05</u></u>
	<u>Cash & GIC</u>	
	Funds held by Special Gift fund	2,609.10
	CIBC 1 year cashable GIC	8,582.95
	interest at 2.05% maturing April 17, 2020	
	Total Cash and GIC	<u><u>11,192.05</u></u>

Envelope Steward's Annual Report 2019

Contributions of Grace United Church 2019

Month	Loose	Local*	M&S Fund	Building Fund	2019	2018
January	154	12,931	1,783	1,905	16,773	16,935
February	138	12,870	1,760	1,991	16,759	15,205
March	125	13,293	1,784	1,970	17,172	15,538
April	265	15,224	1,642	1,864	18,995	18,350
May	129	14,282	1,840	2,250	18,501	15,230
June	172	13,802	1,674	1,780	17,428	14,708
July		9,598	1,498	1,598	12,694	14,866
August	168	12,847	1,667	2,395	17,077	11,534
September	151	12,486	1,718	1,875	16,230	20,030
October	137	13,466	1,682	2,082	17,367	17,681
November	207	21,947	1,902	2,173	26,229	20,407
December	677	23,238	1,926	3,530	29,371	28,024
Total	\$2,323	\$175,984	\$20,876	\$25,413	\$224,596	\$208,508

* includes Easter, Anniversary, Christmas and Initial offerings.

Average Contributions

Year	Envelopes		Contributors without envelopes	PAR	Total	Receipts	Average
	Used	Not used					
2019	45	(15)	67	85	197	224,596	1,140
2018	56	(9)	58	80	194	208,509	1,075
2017	62	(3)	36	84	182	202,905	1,115
2016	59	(3)	29	81	169	232,962	1,378
2015	56	(4)	40	83	179	210,207	1,174
2014	63	(8)	38	81	182	225,232	1,238

Envelope Steward's Annual Report 2019 (continued)

Contribution Range

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Unused	15	9	3	3	4
0.01 - 200	55	62	45	23	40
201 - 400	20	16	19	26	26
401 - 600	20	17	13	16	13
601 - 800	8	8	15	11	12
801 - 1000	9	11	10	9	9
1001 - 1200	12	17	13	11	14
1201 - 1400	16	14	11	15	13
1401 - 1600	8	5	12	13	10
1601 - 1800	7	10	5	5	5
1801 - 2000	6	6	4	7	3
2000+	36	28	33	33	34

Special Offerings and Other Contributions

	Easter	Anniversary	Christmas	Food Bank	F.O.O.D.
2019	2,545	2,541	8,416	5,361	3,003
2018	2,125	2,400	4,103	4,042	1,889
2017	1,310	2,061	2,415	2,796	1,664
2016	2,975	1,725	2,066	2,609	1,488
2015	2,210	2,820	4,680	2,327	1,645

Respectfully submitted,

Martin Walker
Envelope Steward

Finance Committee Report
Year ended December 31, 2019

During the Stewardship campaign for 2019, we asked the congregation to increase their local givings and redirect some of their M&S givings to local offering due to a change in the United Church of Canada structure. We received tremendous support, increasing our local givings over the previous year by approximately \$20,000. We were able to end the year with a small surplus even though our repairs and maintenance expenses remained high. We would like to thank everyone who contributed to this successful year.

We welcomed Bob Tobin as our new building rental manager in the fall of 2019. Rentals have become an important source of revenue to the Church.

The building fund was reduced to \$23,600 due to masonry and roof repairs. We would like to bring attention to this fund and hope to replenish it this year.

With regards to the 2020 budget, the Church will experience increased expenses and we hope that everyone will consider the 5% increase in their local givings as outlined in the stewardship campaign request

As in prior years, we encourage everyone to consider PAR (pre-authorized remittances) as their method of giving to Grace. It helps regulate income, smooth out seasonal fluctuations, and predict the Church's cash flow.

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

Connie Mack, Co-chair Finance

Blair MacKinnon, Co-chair Finance

Lynn Loder, Treasurer

Grace United Church

Comparative Balance Sheet

	<u>As at 12/31/19</u>	<u>As at 12/31/18</u>
ASSET		
Current Assets		
Bank - CIBC	39,776.00	31,213.93
Short-term investments	11,510.11	31,577.14
Due To/From Memorial Fund	-12,909.12	-9,573.07
Accounts Receivable	0.00	1,040.00
HST Recoverable	3,644.75	3,222.10
Prepaid expenses	0.00	5,200.00
Prepaid Expenses - Insurance	1,588.28	1,470.28
Prepaid Expenses - Total	<u>1,588.28</u>	<u>6,670.28</u>
Total Current Assets	<u><u>43,610.02</u></u>	<u><u>64,150.38</u></u>
TOTAL ASSET	<u><u>43,610.02</u></u>	<u><u>64,150.38</u></u>
LIABILITY		
Current Liabilities		
Accts Payable - F.O.O.D.	1,773.22	1,612.26
Accounts Payable	3,859.54	3,128.85
Deferred Revenue - Inclusive Choir	0.00	2,060.00
Kitchen Rental Expen do not use	0.00	-704.69
To/From A/V Sound System Fund	-12,145.96	-8,450.29
Deferred Rev - Web Page Development	3,000.00	3,000.00
Deferred Revenue miscellaneous	0.00	0.00
Deferred Revenue - Total	<u>-9,145.96</u>	<u>-4,094.98</u>
Receiver General Payable	1,493.37	1,454.29
Due to Mission & Service Fund	1,925.79	2,441.02
Due to/from Library Fund	857.85	881.55
Rental Reserve Fund Hall & Kitchen	3,906.81	8,510.64
Due to/from Building Fund	23,599.02	38,071.84
Due to/fr Church Renew/partnership	3,000.00	3,000.00
Refugee Sponsorship Account	2,298.91	96.00
Total Current Liabilities	<u><u>33,568.55</u></u>	<u><u>55,101.47</u></u>
TOTAL LIABILITY	<u><u>33,568.55</u></u>	<u><u>55,101.47</u></u>
EQUITY		
Equity - General Fund		
Retained Surplus - General Fund	9,048.91	8,943.74
Current Earnings	992.56	105.17
Total Equity - General Fund	<u><u>10,041.47</u></u>	<u><u>9,048.91</u></u>
TOTAL EQUITY	<u><u>10,041.47</u></u>	<u><u>9,048.91</u></u>
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	<u><u>43,610.02</u></u>	<u><u>64,150.38</u></u>

Grace United Church
Budget 2020, Actual and Budget 2019 and 2018

	2020 Budget	2019 Actual	2019 Budget	2018 Actual	2018 Budget
Revenue					
Local budget offering	186,504	178,491	176,803	158,294	162,615
Interest earned on GICs	300	365	300	307	100
Hall rental	23,500	23,045	23,500	23,592	22,000
Kitchen Rental	17,250	16,119	17,250	17,241	16,000
Other rev /Club Dartm. Serv. fee (note 1)	800	10,044	9,859	767	2,000
Grace Initiatives Committee	19,000	27,424	18,000	26,315	16,000
(Hfx Presb).Spirit cafe	200	208	300	1,590	750
Concerts - Music at Grace		1,308			
Grant - Presbyt. Inclusive Choir (note 2)		2,060	2,060	2,100	0
Subtotal Other Revenue	61,050	80,573	71,269	71,912	56,850
Total Revenue	247,554	259,064	248,072	230,206	219,465
Expenses & Disbursements					
Salaries & Honoraria					
Salary - Minister (note 3)	80769	79,263	79,263	68,015	58,015
Salary - Supply minister-sabbatical	7800				
Contract - Organist	18264	17,923	17,923	17,641	17,641
Salary - Office Administrator	16173	15,871	15,871	15,621	15,621
Honorarium - Christian Education	500	500	500	1,500	500
Honorarium - Bookkeeper	2000	1,900	1,900	1,850	1,850
Honoraria - Other (note 2)	3000	3,017	2,650	3,010	1,200
Honorarium- Envelop Sec	2000	1,900	1,900	1,850	1,850
Honoraria- special music	700	500	500	500	500
Rental Manager (start Jan 14/19)	9273	8,721	8,721		
Contract - Janitor	13730	13,474	13,474	13,082	13,082
Total Salaries & Honoraria	154,208	143,069	142,702	123,069	110,259
UC pension expense/ CPP/Other benefits	15,000	14,733	14,500	14,250	14,800
EI expense	1,600	1,564	1,600	1,564	1,700
Continuing education- minister	1,442	1,415	1,415	1,393	1,393
Professional development- organist	1,500	1,500	1,500	2,500	1,500
Subtotal payroll expenses	19,542	19,213	19,015	19,707	19,393
Total Payroll and Honoraria	173,750	162,282	161,717	142,776	129,652

Grace United Church
Budget 2020, Actual and Budget 2019 and 2018

	2020 Budget	2019 Actual	2019 Budget	2018 Actual	2018 Budget
Church Premises & Housing					
Housing Allow - Minister (note 3)	0	0	0	10,000	20,000
Power	6,300	5,792	6,500	6,383	6,500
Water	1,350	1,220	1,350	1,317	1,300
Heating fuel	11,000	10,833	10,000	10,036	9,500
Repairs & Maintenance	8,000	20,288	8,320	13,125	7,500
Furniture & fixtures (note 1)	3,500	12,251	15,000	3,352	3,500
Computer / software	1,000	1,054	1,000	0	1,500
Cleaning supplies & misc.	1,300	794	1,500	1,355	1,600
Total Church Prem.& Housing	32,450	52,231	43,670	45,568	51,400
Church Administration					
Travel Allowance - Minister	1,800	2,185	2,200	1,919	2,200
Travel Allowance - supply min-sabb	200				
Printing, postage, stationery	2,800	2,554	3,000	3,361	2,600
Telecom	4,500	4,415	4,330	3,719	3,500
Insurance	6,000	5,881	6,000	5,881	6,000
Bank charges	1,500	1,496	1,500	1,416	1,500
Taxes - Hydrant	125	115	125	115	150
UCC Assessment (Hfx Presb) (note 4)	8,929	8,929	8,930	8,065	8,113
Total Church Administration	25,854	25,575	26,085	24,476	24,063
Church Activities					
Choir	700	657	800	820	750
Christian education	1,000	1,005	1,000	533	1,000
Worship	2,500	2,270	2,500	2,571	2,500
Coffee fellowship/ Pastoral Care	700	693	700	735	700
Communication committee	500	0	500	544	350
Grace Initiatives expenses	0	2,871		3,127	
Miscellaneous/concerts-cleaning	200	434	100	0	200
Long-range planning/ I ²	200	276	200	143	250
Total Church Activities	5,800	8,206	5,800	8,473	5,750

**Grace United Church
Budget 2020, Actual and Budget 2019 and 2018**

	2020 Budget	2019 Actual	2019 Budget	2018 Actual	2018 Budget
Allocations & Discretionary					
Outreach	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
UC Observer subscriptions				45	
Unified Board	1,200	1,164	1,000	670	1,000
Total Allocations & Discret.	4,700	4,664	4,500	4,215	4,500
Total Expenses before Reserve Fund	242,554	252,958	241,772	225,508	215,365
Allocation to Rental Reserve Fd (note 5)	5,000	5,114	6,300	4,593	4,100
Total Expenses & Allocations	247,554	258,072	248,072	230,101	219,465
Net Income (Deficiency)	0	993	0	105	0
M&S Objective	20,000	20,876	20,000	27,698	30,000

**Statement of Building Fund
Jan 1, 2019 to Dec 31, 2019**

Balance Jan 1, 2019	38,071
Donations Received	25,413
Disbursements	-39,885
Balance Dec 31, 2019	<u>23,599</u>

Notes to Budget

- Note #1 in 2019, a Service fee of \$9109 was received from Club Dartmouth towards the purchase of a change table costing \$12,000
- Note #2 In 2018, a Presbytery grant was received to pay the Inclusive Choir Director's honorarium, (approximately \$2,000 for 2018 and 2019 respectively)
- Note #3 The Minister's Housing Allowance is reflected in his salary effective July 1, 2018
- Note #4 Payments to the Halifax Presbytery have been replaced by UCC Assessments effective January 1, 2019
- Note #5 The Kitchen reserve fund and the Building reserve fund have been combined to Rental Reserve Fund

Audit Committee Report 2019

The Audit Committee has audited the general operations balance sheet of Grace United Church as of December 31, 2019, and the general operations statements of revenue and expenses for the 2019 year following the Grace "Self Audit Program" prepared by William Foster, C. A.

The Audit Committee conducted several random tests by tracing payments through accounts, reviewing the system of receipts and deposits of funds and postings 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 church sub-committees and records of various fund raising programs, and portions of payroll management through the United Church of Canada systems.

The Audit Committee found no irregularities and is satisfied with the general operations of accounting systems used to prepare annual financial statements. The finances were well organized and documented in files and in a computer program.

The Audit Committee wishes to recognize the significant effort and time invested by the volunteers and officers who are responsible for the various financial aspects of Grace Church and recommends that the congregation be informed of this good stewardship. The Audit Committee also recognizes the organization, documentation and the adherence to good financial practices of those responsible for managing the Grace Church finances. We commend the church for fostering effective financial practices such as e-transfers, PAR, and studious record-keeping to reduce the amount of cash exchanging hands and to ensure accuracy.

The following recommendations were discussed during the audit and are here brought to the attention of those responsible for any consideration:

1. Given the significant investment made to date in the audio-visual equipment in the church and the probability that further investment will occur, it would be advisable to review the adequacy of the current insurance coverage of the church.
2. As opportunities to pursue grants to support church functions have aided church financial security and operations in the 2019 calendar year, the Audit Committee encourages the continuing search for and evaluation of grant opportunities in the coming year.

The Audit Committee would like to thank the representatives of the Grace Church financial management team for their cooperation and for the comprehensive provision of the information necessary to conduct this audit.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Spencer and Hugh Hall